Patagonia: The Peninsula Valdes
Whales, Penguins, and Seascapes

The Patagonian coast is a must-visit for wildlife and landscape photographers alike. This trip was specially designed by Ossian Lindholm after many visits to the area and combines a perfect balance of photo opportunities for both stunning vistas and unique animals in the region.

The star of the show is the Southern Right Whale. From early June to December, hundreds of the majestic creatures migrate to Peninsula Valdes to mate and breed, which means you’ll have the unique opportunity to photograph their calves as well! You’ll also have the chance to see colonies of up to one million Magellanic penguins on the Patagonian Coast every year between September and March.

Every excursion includes daily lessons with master photographer Ossian Lindholm and is hosted by Lauren Hefferon, the founder of Travel Vision Journeys. With a small group and expert leadership, enjoy two whale watching sailing trips in Peninsula Valdes during the most beautiful moments of the day: sunrise and sunset.

Savor the ability to get away from it all during an escape to Bahia Bustamante, an old kelper town converted into a lodge. Living in close proximity to a wildlife sanctuary means you’ll get once in a lifetime shots of penguins, sea lions, birds and more. Along with the marine life, you’ll also have the chance to explore the gorgeous Petrified Forest and see all of the wildlife that the Patagonian Steppe has to offer, including guanacos, rheas, foxes, skunks, and armadillos.

A trip to Patagonia in southern Argentina means that you’ll see everything the country has to offer in one concentrated space. If you can’t choose between photographing marine animals, wildlife, or stunning landscapes, now you don’t have to! Get it all on tour with luxury accommodations, and hone your photography skills as you go. Experience the Patagonia Steppe as never before, only with the Travel Vision Journeys Whales, Penguins, and Seascapes Expedition!
PATAGONIA: THE PENINSULA VALDES 2018
Ability Level: Easy / Duration: 7 days / 6 nights

TRIP ESSENCE

- Whale watching on sunrise and sunset sailing trips
- Daily photography lessons with accomplished photographer Ossian Lindholm
- Opportunity to photograph penguin and elephant seal colonies
- Unique landscape photography sessions in the Petrified Forest and Caleta Valdes seaside cliffs and tide pools
- Stunning wildlife observation of foxes, guanacos, birds, and more
- Diverse Argentinian cultural and historical experiences including museums and an introduction to the local cuisine

WHAT’S INCLUDED

- Professional tour guides throughout the program
- Daily photography instruction from Ossian Lindholm
- Whale watching
- All accommodations and private transportation
- All breakfasts and most lunches and dinners
- Accident insurance and gratuities at restaurants and hotels
- All activities according to the itinerary

TRIP DETAILS

2018 Trip Date
- Oct 18-24

Ability Level
- Easy

Trip Price
- $3,750
- Single Supplement: TBD

EQUIPMENT

For Photography
- Body SLR or compact digital camera
- Wide-angle lens
- Laptop (for selecting images)
- Tripod
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DAY 1

EVENING ARRIVAL IN COMODORO RIVADAVIA

Hotel - Bahia Bustamante Lodge
- Location: Bahia Bustamente
- Duration: 2 Nights
- Website: http://www.bahiabustamante.com/

Highlights

Your Patagonia trip gets off to an exciting start at Comodoro Rivadavia! Your tour guide will meet you at the airport in this coastal town and transfer you to Bahia Bustamante Lodge.

Here you’ll get an exciting tour of the hotel that also functions as a kelper community. More than 40 families collect algae at the lodge and you’ll learn about the history of the profession in the remote town, see the drying beds, explore the collecting sheds, and more. The evening ends with a relaxing introductory dinner.

At Bahia Bustamante Lodge, you’ll stay at little casitas that were originally built for workers, but now accept guests. Each has two bedrooms and one bathroom out in the hallway, to be shared by both bedrooms. There’s a very cozy sitting room and dining room for the group to enjoy evening talks and delicious meals. We visit this very remote location to experience the isolation of estancia life on the steppes, as it was nearly a century ago. In exchange of roughing it (only a little), we’ll experience a stunning wild shore, marine and steppe wildlife, and we’ll live for two days in an authentic estancia built by immigrants to harvest seaweed and breed sheep.

DAY 2

BAHIA BUSTAMENTE

Hotel - See Day 1

Highlights

What better way to start your tour than with a peaceful sunrise photo session and breakfast at the lodge? Afterward, we’ll set off for a sailing trip in Malaspina Cove and visit a special lookout to spot marine flora and fauna. Throughout the day you’ll get the chance to photograph sea lions, Magellanic penguins, cormorants, petrels, and flightless steamer ducks among other animals. It’s even possible to see groups of dolphins and killer whales!

After an exciting morning on the water, enjoy a photography lesson and lunch in a local restaurant to relax and recharge for the afternoon adventures.

DAY 3

TOUR AND TRANSFER TO PUERTO MADRYN

Hotel - Hotel Australis Yene Hue
- Location: Puerto Madryn
- Duration: 2 Nights
- Website: http://www.australisyenehue.com.ar/?cc=en

Highlights

On day three, the group leaves early to tour the beautiful Graviña Peninsula, where you’ll get the chance for some landscape photography at the fine sand beaches. The unique geological area is sheltered from the wind by large red rock formations that create a stunning contrast with the intense blue of the sea. When the tide is low deep natural pools are formed in the rock and you can even walk out among them for breathtaking photos.

Afterward, return to the lodge for lunch and pack up for the departure to Puerto Madryn. We’ll arrive at the Hotel Australis Yene Hue around 6 pm, and finish the evening with a group dinner.

Located in the center of Puerto Madryn and offering wonderful ocean views, the Australis Yene Hue is the first hotel in Argentina to be certified with high standards of sustainability, awarded the Eco-label “Hoteles más Verdes.”
DAY 4

PUERTO MADRYN

Hotel - See Day 3

Highlights

Your morning starts with a visit to the Museum of the Sea, lunch, and a photo lesson. In the afternoon, enjoy exploring and sunset photography at Playa Doradillo where you’ll have the chance to spot whales from the beach. The mothers pass with their young calves just meters from the coast, all but ensuring the opportunity for stunning photos you can’t get anywhere else in the world!

DAY 5

TOUR AND TRANSFER TO PUERTO PIRÁMIDES

Hotel - Oceano Patagonia
• Location: Puerto Pirámides
• Duration: 2 Nights
• Website: http://oceanopatagonia.com/

Highlights

On day five, the group will depart from Puerto Madryn after breakfast to visit Valdés Peninsula, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The first stop is Caleta Valdes where you’ll get stunning landscape shots of the cliffs and another great opportunity to spot pods of killer whales down below. Then, we will visit Punta Delgada to observe one of the largest elephant seal colonies in the world and photograph a unique species that has recovered from the brink of extinction.

After a picnic lunch, it’s time to transfer to Puerto Pirámides. Enjoy some free time to relax and check in to the Oceano Patagonia Hotel before the night ends with a sunset sailing trip to photograph the whales up close.

Oceano Patagonia Hotel is a location like no other in the world, where soft sand and turquoise waters guard some of the world’s most treasured marine life. Rated the top location on the planet for whale watching, the nature reserve of Peninsula Valdés is a complete eco-system that offers so much more. Here you have an opportunity to interact closely with an incredible variety of wildlife and birth species in their natural environment.
DAY 6

PUERTO PIRÁMIDES

Hotel - See Day 5

Highlights

The last full day of the tour begins with a peaceful sunrise whale watching experience, breakfast, and a photography lesson. Your final afternoon is free to choose your own experience and options like hiking, scuba diving, snorkeling, and kayaking are all available for a fee. Then, enjoy your last dinner with the group before we have to say goodbye!

DAY 7

DEPARTURE

Highlights

Adios! Savor your final free morning in beautiful Patagonia before the trip comes to an end. After our farewell lunch, we’ll transfer you to Puerto Madryn Airport when the group will say goodbye and catch separate flights to their international destinations.
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MEET YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDES

Ossian Lindholm is a renowned nature photographer from Tucuman, Argentina. Trained as an Agronomist, many years ago he turned his deep passion for nature to photography. In his work as a photographer, teacher and documentary filmmaker, he is dedicated to capturing, preserving, conserving, sharing and sustaining the landscape, nature and culture of Argentina in its most pristine state.

Ossian has published five books, 14 calendars and he teaches photography courses throughout the year. Since 1998 he has been leading groups of photographers and naturalists on photographic journeys throughout his native Argentina.

For the past four years has been the host of a very popular weekly nature TV documentary called Travesía Fotográficas. In each show He hopes to educate and inspire people to love, protect and keep sacred the places where they live using images, words and music to touch peoples’ emotional core.

During his early years he loved reading National Geographic Magazine; it had a profound impact on him. It was his first inspiration and he became continually was drawn by nature photography. He went to college to pursue a career in agricultural engineering and here he began to develop a strong connection with the biological sciences that continues to be a strong influence in all his work. After obtaining his degree he worked for many years as a scientist but in 1998 he decided to dedicate himself to nature photography.

At this time he began working as a photography and nature guide which allowed him to travel around Argentina and connect with other photographers and biologists in the world.

After graduating in anthropology from Cornell University, Lauren Hefferon studied fine arts in Florence and cycled over 35,000 miles throughout Europe. She founded Ciclismo Classico in 1988 and drives all visionary aspects of the company, from itinerary design and tour leader training to marketing and company strategy.

Her latest creation, Travel Vision Journeys was born from her love of photography and insatiable curiosity to find the most authentic cultural experiences as well as the most gorgeous views has served her well in designing exclusive learning experiences for the adventurous traveler.

Lauren is considered a pioneer in adventure and educational travel and has been an advisor to the Adventure Travel World Summit, a panelist at the annual National Bike Summit Panel on Tourism, and founded the annual Ciclismo Classico Bike Travel Film Festival.

Under Hefferon’s leadership, Ciclismo Classico and Travel Vision Journeys has blossomed into one of the top companies in the adventure travel industry, garnering awards from Outside magazine and National Geographic Traveler, and being named one of Boston’s top 100 woman-Led businesses three years running.

Hefferon has been profiled by Entrepreneur magazine, and her tours have been featured in an array of media outlets, ranging from USA Today and The Wall Street Journal, to Bicycling, CNN.com and Forbes.

As a specialized boutique bicycle tour operator since 1988, her companies provide the most authentic, unique and exciting vacations in the adventure travel industry. Her award-winning educational trips in Europe, South America, New Zealand, Asia and New England are active immersions into local art, language, music, folklore and delicious cuisine.
ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

GETTING TO COMODORO RIVADAVIA

Fly to General Enrique Mosconi International Airport (CRD). Your tour guide will meet you at the airport (time TBD) and transfer you to Bahia Bustamante Lodge.*

* Please inform the office if you plan on taking this scheduled group shuttle at least one month in advance via this form: www.ciclismoclassico.com/travel-plans

DEPARTING FROM PUERTO MADRYN

After our farewell lunch (time TBD), we’ll transfer you to El Tehuelche Airport (PMY) to make your international connection(s) to your next destination.

OTHER INFORMATION

For Flight Reservations
Valerie Wilson Travel
Call: 1-855-780-2022 or
E-mail: ciclismoair@vwti.com

Travel Insurance
MH Ross
Call: 1-800-423-3632

Transportation
Rome2rio
http://www.rome2rio.com
INSURANCE, TERMS & CONDITIONS

Insurance
Ciclismo Classico will not assume responsibility or liability for any loss or damage of personal effects or for any injury or loss during the duration of the tour. Therefore, we highly recommend that you obtain travel insurance. Information on travel insurance will be sent to you via email once trip deposit is received. We recommend MH Ross, but travelers may choose the insurance carrier of their choice.

Cancellations and Refunds
All requests for refunds must be submitted in writing as soon as possible to Ciclismo Classico. Exceptions to their cancellation policy cannot be made for any reason, including weather or personal emergencies. There is no refund for unexpectedly leaving a trip early or arriving late. The purchase of short-term travel insurance policy is strongly recommended. Cancellation fees are determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days before departure</th>
<th>Cancellation fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>121+ days</td>
<td>50% of the deposit*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91-120 days</td>
<td>100% of the deposit*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-90 days</td>
<td>30% of the trip price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-60 days</td>
<td>60% of the trip price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-30 days</td>
<td>100% of the trip price</td>
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*You may transfer your trip deposit to another departure in the same tour season up to 90 days before your original departure with payment of a $100 per person transfer fee. Prices quoted are subject to adjustment without prior notification. OR your deposit (currently $600) may be carried forward to the following year as a credit toward the final balance of a tour. At the time of booking, we will ask for another $600 deposit to secure your spot. Carried-forward credits expire at the end of the year to which they are applied.

Alterations to the tour itinerary
Sometimes modifications may be made to the itinerary. We will notify you of any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging. Any changes to the program are made in the best interest and safety of the group.

To review our policies, please visit http://www.ciclismoclassico.com/plan-your-trip/policies/

RESERVE YOUR SPACE!

To reserve a space, call Ciclismo Classico at 800-866-7314 or Lauren Hefferon at 617-640-4837. Or, mail your deposit and contact information to:

Ciclismo Classico
attn: Rosa
30 Marathon St
Arlington, MA 02474

At the time of registration, a deposit of $600 per person is due, payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express or check, made payable to Ciclismo Classico, along with your full name, mailing address, phone number(s) and email address. We cannot confirm reservations without a deposit. Final payment is due 90 days before departure payable by check, credit card, wire transfer or money order. All travelers must review and sign a terms and conditions statement and a waiver form.