

## ‘Tra Bo Dau Tour to Welsh Patagonia 2019

*“It’s not an exaggeration to say there’s a duty on all Welsh people that have the means to visit Patagonia to do so. If don’t, they will miss one of life’s major opportunities. The welcome and warmth is of course incredible, but more than anything the proudness you feel as a Welshman as to how they overcame incomprehensible situations and difficulties really hits home and it is something you can only appreciate by visiting yourself.” Rhys Meirion*

*“It’s hard to explain in words what I felt when I first heard perfect Welsh spoken by the Welsh Argentinians that had never been to Wales. To enter a school and see the children learning and singing our language, I felt so proud to be a Welshman. Without a doubt, Patagonia is a magical place!” Aled Wyn Davies*



On this once in a lifetime tour you will not only enjoy the numerous concerts and social activities in the company of Rhys Meirion, Aled Wyn Davies and their pianist Menna Griffiths, but you will also be supporting the Welsh schools in this unique region of Argentina. The schools are the main source of preservation of the Welsh language and culture in Patagonia and “Teithiau Tango” feels proud to contribute with this amazing purpose!

Embark on the experience of a lifetime along with these two famous Welsh tenors who will be joined by numerous local artists, to include singing gaucho Alejandro Jones, Billy Hughes and many more. This 17-days tour in November 2019 will be an unforgettable opportunity to enjoy concerts set across Welsh Patagonia, to meet and spend time with the locals and experience the best of what the region has to offer – stunning views, incredible wildlife and visits to the most important historical locations.

All the activities are specially organised by the locals for our groups. You will have the chance to meet and socialise with the Patagonians of Welsh descent; speak, and even sing with them in Welsh!

If you don’t speak Welsh or you are learning, please don’t worry because all our tours are guided by friendly and knowledgeable group leaders fluent in English, Welsh and Spanish who will be available to help you with everything!

The price for our Tra Bo Dau tour includes international and internal flights, all accommodation with breakfast, private transfers, all activities (including concerts) and one additional meal per day on top of breakfast.

Here’s a chance for an unforgettable tour! Join Rhys and Aled to make sure that it’s a once in a lifetime journey!

## Your Itinerary

### Tuesday 12 November

Today we will board our flight from London to Buenos Aires for a tour of a lifetime. We arrange our flights in the evening so that you can travel overnight and not waste any time in Argentina!

### Wednesday 13 November

We will arrive this morning in the captivating capital of Buenos Aires and transfer to your centrally located hotel. Once checked in, we will enjoy breakfast. Here we'll be able to spend the day relaxing after the flight or a take a chance to stroll around central Buenos Aires before an evening of culture and excitement at one of Buenos Aires' renowned Tango Shows (dinner included).

### Thursday 14 November

The day begins with a Private City Tour (with lunch included). Buenos Aires is known throughout the world for its splendid and varied architecture, from old Colonial buildings and French palaces to state-of-the-art skyscrapers; and for its vibrant nightlife and endless cultural sites of interest. Our journey starts at Plaza de Mayo, a place of huge historical significance for the city, and from there travel on to the Casa Rosada - or the Pink House - the Presidential Palace, the Cabildo town hall, and the Neoclassical-styled Metropolitan Cathedral, the final home of Argentina's founding father, José de San Martín. From here we will explore some of the newest and oldest neighbourhoods or barrios that Argentina has to offer, including San Telmo, La Boca, Puerto Madero, Retiro and Recoleta. Our tour will end at the celebrated Recoleta Cemetery, a true labyrinth of ornate mausoleums where we'll make a stop at Eva Peron's grave, one of the country's most recognizable icons.

After the tour we'll transfer to the airport for your flight to Trelew where you will be met by your local guide and transferred to our accommodation in Puerto Madryn.

### Friday 15 November

Today the whole day will be spent in Trelew, the town established and named after Lewis Jones and visit old and new buildings including Ysgol yr Hendre, where the children receive bilingual education and Museum "Pueblo de Luis". Here we'll stop for lunch, followed by a short walking tour. This afternoon Ysgol yr Hendre will welcome you with a traditional Welsh tea.

During the evening you will enjoy the first of several Tra Bo Dau concerts along with a Welcome Cocktail with the Welsh Society of Puerto Madryn. Late return to the hotel.

### Chance for a Party!

Annually we run the 'Trevelin Anniversary Tour, but this year we decided to combine it with the amazing opportunity to take Tra Bo Dau out to Patagonia. In 1885 (20 years after the original settlers arrived on the famous Mimosa), the Rifleros – around 30 men on horseback – arrived in Cwm Hyfryd led by El Baqueano, John Daniel Evans and 133 years later you can arrive too! Known as the birthday of Trevelin, or 'Penblwydd Trevelin', this event is celebrated annually, and our lucky tour group will be part of their 2019 celebrations.



### **Saturday 16 November**

We set off early today for a guided tour in Puerto Madryn where we'll visit the local sites that are related to the original landing of the Mimosa in 1865. Following lunch, we'll return to the hotel where you are free to enjoy the afternoon in your own time.

During the evening, we'll enjoy Tra Bo Dau in concert with a Welcome Cocktail with the Welsh Society of Trelew and return to the hotel later in the evening.

### **Sunday 17 November**

Free Morning to relax or to explore the area at your own pace! Today we'll enjoy a traditional BBQ lunch known as an "asado" at a ranch of a family of Welsh descent in Gaiman.

Along with the locals, we will enjoy the last Tra Bo Dau concert in the valleys. After the concert we will return to Puerto Madryn for a free evening to relax.

### **Monday 18 November**

We depart early for a full day tour to the Provincial Wildlife Reserve of Peninsula Valdes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On arrival we depart by boat for the incredible experience of whale watching of Southern Right Whales. To be so close to such majestic creates is such a moving experience, it will stay with you for a lifetime! Around noon we will stop to have lunch at a local restaurant. From here we will make our return to the hotel in Puerto Madryn for a free evening to relax.

### **Tuesday 19 November**

Today we'll visit the small town Gaiman for a guided tour where we will explore the village and the numerous places of interest including the museum, First House and the Welsh School. Gaiman is at the centre of the Welsh region here in Patagonia, both culturally and demographically and it is known in Welsh as Y Wladfa Gymreig. The town was founded in 1874 by David D. Roberts and it hosts a youth Eisteddfod every September. This afternoon we'll enjoy a Traditional Welsh Tea organized by Ysgol y Gymraeg Gaiman. After exploring Gaiman we'll head to Dolavon and visit some historical buildings, chapels and the museum in Tir Halen, which provides a lovely visual account of the Welsh settlers and their early time in Y Wladfa!

### **Wednesday 20 November**

We have a great journey ahead of us today – crossing the 'paith' or desert towards the Andes - an incredible journey once undertaken by Welsh immigrants to this barren region 134 years ago!

We will follow the only route across the Patagonian wilderness, stopping at many places of historical interest along the way. A packed lunch will be provided *in route*. We'll arrive at our hotel in Esquel where we'll settle in before dinner is served.

### **Thursday 21 November**

Today we will travel to Los Alerces National Park, one of only 34 Biodiversity Hotspots on Earth. This park features 2,630 square kilometres of incredible forest and wildlife. Named so due to it being the home of the largest population of the rare Alerce tree, one of the longest living trees in the world, it also boasts a huge choice of wildlife as well as natural sites such as impossibly blue lakes, rivers, towering



glaciers and marine fossils. Once we have enjoyed time at this UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, time will be given to enjoy lunch at a traditional restaurant (not included). We will then journey back to our hotel for some free time before enjoying a Welcome dinner organised by Welsh residents from Esquel.

### **Friday 22 November**

Enjoy a full day tour exploring the highlights of Trevelin, including the Museum, Nant Fach Mill, Malacara Grave, chapels and Ysgol y Cwm. During the afternoon we'll enjoy a traditional 'asado' on a Welsh Patagonia Family's farm. The evening will be spent in Trevelin in the company of Tra Bo Dau before the first concert in the Andes. Following the concert, we'll enjoy a Welcome cocktail with the Trevelin Welsh Society and make a late night return to hotel in Esquel.

### **Saturday 23 November**

Today visit Nat Fall Reserve and Nat Fall vineyards, enjoy a lunch with a local Welsh Family. After lunch there will be free time to explore this fascinating place alone – right here in the middle of the Andes! We'll return to Esquel to take a guided tour around the city. Tonight, Tra Bo Dau will entertain us in concert in Esquel.

### **Sunday 24 November**

Today, join the Rifleros Society at School 18 for a lunchtime picnic. In the afternoon, an optional walk up the Graig Goch where a celebratory ceremony will take place. Return to the hotel and free night to relax.

### **Monday 25 November**

Today we will experience the colourful and historic Trevelin Anniversary parade. Trevelin was important to the region as it was home of the first flour mill, known as "Los Andes", in 1891. Its name comes from the Welsh word 'Trefelin', meaning Mill Town. This evening we will enjoy a farewell dinner together in the company of members of the all Welsh society in Patagonia as we think about all the wonderful memories we have made over the last fortnight!

### **Tuesday 26 November**

Following breakfast, we will depart Esquel for a scenic drive to Bariloche where we will board our flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival we will be taken by private transfer with local guide to the hotel. Tonight we will dine at the hotel.

### **Wednesday 27 November**

Today you will depart on your return home or onwards on one of our extensions.

### **Wednesday 28 November**

You will arrival back in the UK today and begin your return journey home, ready to tell everyone about the fantastic experience you have just shared in Patagonia!

**Price:** £ 5,200 per person  
(based on 2 people sharing a room)

**Single Supplement:** £ 500

#### INCLUDES

- International and Internal flights
- Accommodation with breakfast
- Transport
- Excursions/activities mentioned in the itinerary
- Additional meals as noted in the itinerary

#### NOT INCLUDES

- UK airport transfers
- Personal Travel Insurance
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal Expenses & Tips

**Please Note:** This itinerary may be subject to change