Weather
Temperatures during our program can be variable, historically ranging at this time of year from the low 50s in the early mornings and evenings to the upper 60s (°F) during the day. Since weather patterns are increasingly unpredictable, we recommend checking temperatures online at The Weather Channel or Weather Underground a few days before the trip departs. This will be your best source for up-to-date weather information.

Note about Patagonia weather:
Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego are known for the rugged harsh climate, high winds and rains. In Southern Patagonia, El Calafate and Torres del Paine, you will be around glaciers for much of the trip and if there is wind it could be quite cold. Please bring appropriate mountain clothing with lots of layers and be prepared for rain. Patagonia’s weather is ever-changing and unpredictable. Pack clothing that is appropriate for everything from sunshine to snow.

Buenos Aires is a very European and cosmopolitan city. People tend to dress elegantly during the work week, but during the weekends it gets more casual. Packing one or two slightly dressier outfits for city touring is advised.

The temperature in Buenos Aires is also warmer than what we may expect in Patagonia (70° to 80° F). It is a bit cooler in the evenings, so it is advisable to have a jacket, pashmina, or sweater handy.

Money
The cost of this tour includes accommodations, transportation, group meals as noted in the brochure (including a soft drink and one glass of beer or wine with lunch and dinner), entrance fees and gratuities for all group activities to guides, waiters and porters. You should need money only for personal expenses, meals on your own, beverages not provided at group meals and for individual purchases.

A few things to note about money while on this trip:
- You will need to pay for everything in local currency using cash or credit cards.
- Use fresh, new-style bills, as overly worn or outdated bills are often not accepted.
- ATMs are readily available in Buenos Aires and El Calafate but not other cities on our itinerary. You may have to split off from the group on excursions in order to seek out an ATM.
- Major credit cards (VISA, MasterCard and American Express) are accepted in virtually all hotels, most restaurants and large shops but in small shops specifically many times there is a lower price for cash or a surcharge for using a credit card.

The following are currencies and exchange rates as of the date of this mailing. You can find up-to-date information about exchange rates in Argentina.

USD $1 = 9.45 Argentine Pesos
Gratuity Guidelines
These guidelines are for hotel housekeeping staff, private transfers, meals on your own, additional hotel nights or any other travel that is not with the group:

- **Hotels**: Because of the difficulty of ensuring that gratuities get to the right person, tips for housekeeping staff at our hotels are not included. If you would like to tip your housekeeper, $1 per day is typically what is recommended. You may tip in USD or local currency.
- **Private transfers**: If you are arriving or departing on a day other than the scheduled arrival and departure dates and have arranged a private transfer through Travel/Study / our local operator, gratuities for your transfer driver are not included. If you wish to tip your transfer driver, $2 per bag is the recommended amount, and you may tip in USD or local currency.
- **Taxis**: drivers don't generally expect tips unless they go out of their way for you but you can always round up.
- **Restaurants**: It is common to tip wait staff 10% of the bill in Argentina.

Internet
Most of our hotels do have a business center or internet connections in the rooms. Rates and connection speed will vary.

In Patagonia (El Calafate and Torres del Paine), please expect slow internet connections or at times no stable internet connection.

Cell Phones
Contact your cell phone provider to find out how you can use your cell phone abroad. Charges will vary depending on the destination and your existing plan. Please note that many U.S. cell phone plans do not include international roaming, and charges can be quite high. Additionally, in Torres del Paine and throughout Southern Patagonia there is not reliable cell phone coverage.

What to Bring

Luggage
On this program, we recommend that you limit your luggage to one suitcase and one carry-on piece (in addition to a personal item such as a purse or handbag). Doing so will make it easier to handle your luggage on your own in the event you need to do so.

For our internal flights within Argentina, our air carrier has a luggage weight limit of 15 kilos (33 lbs) for checked luggage and 5 kilos (11 lbs) for carry-on luggage.

Participants are responsible for their own overweight luggage charges, so please be aware of your luggage limits during the program as well as the restrictions for your international flight carrier.
Clothing
We recommend a casual, comfortable wardrobe that you can layer. Smart casual attire is appropriate for evening meals. Laundry service is available in all of our hotels for a fee. A few specific things to make sure to include:

- walking shoes suitable for uneven terrain
- collapsible umbrella or lightweight rain gear (for possible inclement weather)
- mid-weight jacket for cooler nights/days

Because of the expeditionary nature of our travels, formal dress is not required anywhere on our journey. However, you may want to bring one outfit that can be dressed up a bit for the welcome and farewell dinners (this is completely optional and at your discretion).

Miscellaneous
The following list is intended to capture those miscellaneous items—aside from your clothing and toiletries—that we often forget to pack. None of these items are required; feel free to pick and choose. Additionally, some items are included on this list that you may not currently own, but will need to shop for before the trip.

- day pack (tote bag or backpack)
- trekking shoes or medium weight hiking boots
- trekking or hiking socks (4 pairs are recommended)
- long underwear
- rain jacket and pants (Gore-Tex or similar is recommended)
- down or polar fleece jacket or vest
- earplugs and/or eyeshade (for light sleepers)
- extra pair of eyeglasses or contacts
- hat and sunglasses
- sunscreen and lip protection
- camera with extra batteries/charger and memory cards
- chargers for smart phones and tablets
- plug adapters
- small flashlight
- first aid kit
- tissues (small travel packs)
- hand sanitizer
- money belt
- TSA-approved luggage locks
- extra passport photos
- photocopies of credit cards

Electrical Matters
- Adapter: You will need an adapter plug that looks like this to charge any of your electrical devices.
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Converter: Most laptop computers and digital camera battery chargers can operate on a range of currents from 110-240 volts, in which case a converter is not necessary since the current in Argentina is 220 to 240 volts, 50 cycles. If you plan to bring any electrical appliances that operate on 110 volts, such as shavers or curling irons, you will need to bring your own electrical converter.

For more details about voltage and plug recommendations, look here.