



Taith Tachwedd 2025
PATAGONIA
November 2025 Trek



160
PATAGONIA
1865 * 2025



ITINERARY





2025 will see the 160th anniversary celebrations of Welsh pioneers who left Wales for Patagonia in 1865, establishing a Welsh colony which has flourished to this day, with the Welsh language being spoken in ever increasing numbers.

On 24th November 1865 Craig Goch was climbed to the point from where “Cwm Hyfryd”, or “Beautiful Valley” was seen by our Welsh ancestors and members of the Rifleros expedition.

160 years to the exact day our Velindre trek will celebrate the unique culture, history and heritage of the Welsh connection with our friends in South America, walking with Rifleros over the same ground as our ancestors.

A ceremony will be held on top of Craig Goch on 24 November as together with members of the Rifleros the Argentinian flag is lowered and replaced by the Welsh flag; both anthems will then be sung.

Our trek then continues for another 5-days through stunning Patagonian countryside.

Day 1: 22 November
London to Buenos Aires

Overnight flight from London to Argentina.

Day 2: 23 November
Buenos Aires to Esquel

Met on arrival at Buenos Aires International Airport where we are then transferred to the Domestic Airport for our onward flight. On arrival into Esquel we are met by our guides, and then transferred to our accommodation. This evening we will have a trek briefing and hear more about this amazing challenge. Lunch not included.

Day 3: 24 November
Craig Goch climb (approx. 5hrs)

Trek up to Craig Goch, the point from where Cwm Hyfryd was seen by members of the Rifleros expedition 160 years ago today. We will join today’s Rifleros, many of whom are descendants of the original riders, and chat with them about the history of their Society. They, and many others, will ride up to Craig Goch. Overnight in Esquel.

Day 4: 25 November (4-5hrs trekking)
Esquel to Frey Hut

After a hearty breakfast we have an early 5hr transfer to Cerro Catedral where we begin this once in a lifetime trek! Today we will hike for approximately four to five hours through the Nahuel Huapi National Park to Refugio Frey. The first part of the trail traverses along the mountain and there are excellent views of the large Lake Gutierrez and the surrounding mountains. Then, we reach the Van Titter Valley and hike through a lush forest along a beautiful stream until the last climb up to Frey Hut and Laguna Toncek.





g Craig Goch



Through the Andean forest



The end of a tough trek

Day 5: 26 November (6-7hrs trekking) Frey Hut to Jakob Hut

We leave from Frey Hut early in the morning, and hike up the rocky flanks of Cerro Catedral all the way to the ridge. Views of Volcanos Osorno (2652m), Tronador (3354m), and Lanin (3776m). From here we hike down to the bottom of the Rucaco Valley, and then climb Cerro Brecha Negra Mountain (1900 metres) to enjoy the view from the second summit of the day. After experiencing some of the most stunning views of the area, we hike down the mountain to Jakob Hut, where we spend the night.

Day 6: 27 November (9-11hrs trekking) Jakob Hut to Casalata Valley

After we depart Jakob Hut we have one of the longest days on this challenge. We make our way to the Casalata Valley. The trail passes through mountain ridges, impressive valleys, rocky terrain, Andean forest with amazing views on the Andes. Once we reach the valley floor, we have a short 45-minute transfer to the Pampa Linda (77 miles from Bariloche) area of the Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi for the next part of this trekking adventure.

Day 7: 28 November (5-7hrs trekking) Pampa Linda to Roca Hut

We follow a track from Pampa Linda for approx. 1hr before following an ancient road to meet the Rio Alerce. The route takes a gradual uphill crossing small stream, grassy alpine meadows to reach Paso de las Nubes. Here you get some incredible viewpoints, before descending through glacially formed valleys, having amazing views of the Glacier Frias, an amazing icefall. From here we have an undulations to the Roca Hut, our destination for the night.

Day 8: 29 November (4-5hrs trekking) Roca Hut to Lago Frias

We pick up the trail from the hut and go further into the valley. We follow a well-maintained path, with glimpses through the trees of the snow-capped mountains of the region. Before we reach the Lago Frias, we pass a memorial to members of the Argentine Gendarmeria who died here in a plane crash in 1952. We reach a small jetty where we board a boat for a trip along Nahuel Huapi Lake to connect with our vehicles to take us to Bariloche. We have a chance to celebrate our achievements in Argentinean style, maybe with a 'Tango' or two.

Day 9: 30 November Bariloche to Buenos Aires

This morning we depart Bariloche on a flight to Buenos Aires to connect with the overnight flight back to London.

Day 10: 1 December Arrive London

© Ultimate Challenges
This itinerary is complex and subject to change (please note, some flight schedules may change so the itinerary may need to be reversed to accommodate this).





The Mimosa Landing

On 28 May 1865 the Mimosa carrying 162 men, women and children left Liverpool. The cost of a ticket was £12 and passengers were bound for a new life in South America. The ship landed at New Bay on 28 July and the date is still celebrated each year as the anniversary of the Mimosa landing.

Despite many hardships more settlers arrived in the 1870s and 1880s. Today the population of Patagonia is around 150,000 with an estimated 20,000 people descended from Welsh settlers. The Welsh language is still spoken and Eisteddfod's held each year.

Velindre is Wales' premier Cancer Centre, providing care, support and treatment to cancer patients and their families for over 60 years.

Velindre is the major provider of radiotherapy and other specialised anti-cancer treatments in Wales. Access to radiotherapy is critical to improving patient outcomes for cancer.

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Support our campaign and help us to achieve Victory Over Cancer



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For further details please contact:

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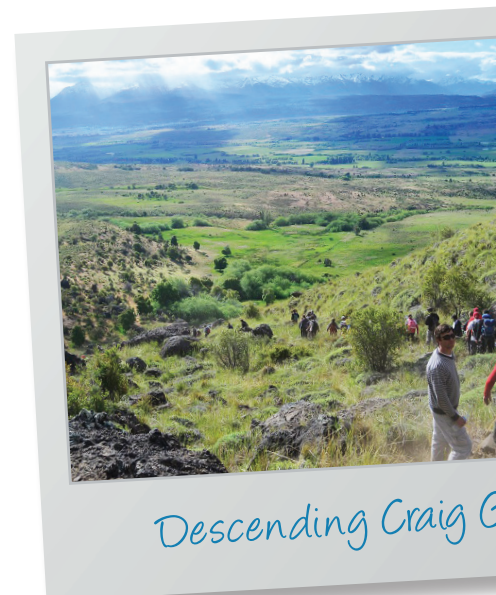
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**QUESTIONS
& ANSWERS**



Reg Charity
No 1052501



How fit do I need to be?

This is not just a walk, but a demanding trek. We are seeking to recreate as closely as possible the conditions that our Welsh ancestors encountered 160 years ago. Although we will be staying in huts, we will be carrying our own rucksacks during our trek. We will supply everyone with a complete training guide and the fitter you are, the more you will enjoy the adventure.

What's the terrain like?

We will be trekking along a mixture of flat grassy plains to long steep climbs and descents. Trails will vary from rocky, dusty tracks to muddy / boggy areas. On some days we will be walking for quite long distances, up to 11 hours per day and some stretches can be quite strenuous.

What's a typical day on trek like?

Whilst on the trek, we will be up at around 6.00am! After breakfast we will normally start walking around 7.30-8.00am. You will need to carry your own bag each day. Typically, we walk for 4-5 hours in the morning and then stop for lunch. In the afternoon we walk for 3-5 hours to our overnight mountain hut.

What sort of back up is provided?

There will be a UK Expedition Leader and Doctor accompanying the group from the Ultimate Travel Company. Local guides will trek with us and will be knowledgeable about the country and route. The guides will carry radios and the Expedition Leader will carry a satellite phone for emergencies.

Do I need any vaccinations?

Typhoid and Hepatitis A vaccinations are advisable. Tetanus and polio vaccinations should be up to date. This is a guideline only. You must seek professional medical advice from your GP or local travel clinic.

Do I need any specialist kit?

A good pair of walking boots and a good supportive rucksack is a must. We also recommend good wind and waterproof jacket and trousers. A full kit list will be supplied.

Will I be insured?

Everyone must be adequately covered to take part in the event. You should explain fully to insurance companies what type of trip you are undertaking e.g. escorted trek in Argentina, which includes evacuation and repatriation.

What will the weather be like?

Weather in this region is extremely unpredictable and you can get all four seasons in one day! You must come prepared. It is also very important to bring thick plastic bags to protect sleeping bag / clothes etc. if it rains.

What will we eat and drink?

Water on the trek will be treated and safe to drink. Hot and cold drinks will be available at the huts. Food will be substantial and will include lots of carbohydrates and protein.

Where will we sleep?

We will sleep in a mixture of hostels, mountain huts and hotels. Facilities will be basic and room sizes will vary.

How much money will I need to take?

Approximately £200-250 spending money is sufficient for drinks, tips and some souvenirs.



gloch

Through the Andean forest

The end of a tough trek

Can I stay on in Argentina after the trek?

There is a possibility to stay on. This is subject to availability and on a first come first served basis. Our tour operator Ultimate Travel will deal with this, there is an administration fee of £95, plus any additional costs over and above the group fare.

Do I need a visa to enter Argentina?

You must have at least 6 months validity on your passports from the date of return to the UK. A visa is not required by British passport holders. On arrival you will be given an entry stamp, which is valid for 90 days.

Can I cover the cost of the trip myself?

Your initial non-refundable registration fee will meet some of the costs of travel, meals, equipment, and general organisation of the trip. A percentage of these costs will also have to come out of the money you raise – with an event of this size, this is unavoidable. This means that each person who sponsors you must realise that a percentage of your fundraising will be used to cover these costs. If you feel unhappy about this you can speak to us about paying for a section or all of the costs of the trek yourself around £3,400 depending on numbers (TBC – final costs will be sent to Velindre in 2024), and fundraise for the remainder.

Fundraising

We will supply you with a Fundraising Pack – please read this before beginning your fundraising.

Following this, please start your fundraising as soon as possible, as this will allow you the maximum amount of time to reach, and hopefully exceed your target.

When you are organising any fundraising events please ensure that any promotional materials clearly state that the funds raised will be used for the purposes of the overseas challenge you are engaged in.

Please ensure your material's carry the official Patagonia event logo, and the in Aid of Velindre logo too.

This will ensure that each person that sponsors you or donates to a fundraising event that you're organising realises that a percentage of their sponsorship / donation will be used towards the trips costs. £7,000 is a lot to raise, but Velindre has a team of fundraisers who have helped hundreds of previous trekkers exceed their sponsorship targets.

Please be assured that in previous treks every participant has raised well over the minimum sponsorship, and for our last overseas trek in 2022 on average each trekker raised over a thousand pounds above the sponsorship target, meaning that Velindre benefited enormously.

How much will I need to raise and what's included in the trip?

To book your place on the trip each participant will pay a non-refundable registration fee of £200. Each participant will need to raise £7,000. This is a lot of money but we have experienced staff that have helped and supported hundreds of previous fundraisers to achieve their targets.

Included will be:

- International return flights to Buenos Aires
- Airport transfers on arrival and local transfers
- Twin hotel accommodation in hotel at beginning and end of trek
- Shared hut accommodation on trek
- Professional experienced trek guides
- UK Expedition leader
- UK Expedition Doctor on trek with comprehensive medical kit
- Full board throughout the event, except lunch on day 2



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