

Tierra del Fuego → *Colour map 9, grid C3.*

The island at the extreme south of South America is divided between Argentina and Chile, with the tail end of the Andes cordillera providing dramatic mountain scenery along the southern fringe of both countries. There are lakes and forests, mostly still wild and undeveloped, offering good trekking in summer and downhill or cross-country skiing in winter. Until a century ago, the island was inhabited by four ethnic groups, Selknam (Onas), Alcaluf, Haush and Yamana. They were removed by settlers who occupied their land to introduce sheep and many died from disease. Their descendants (except for the extinct Haush) are very few in number and live on the islands. Many of the sheep farming *estancias* which replaced the indigenous people can be visited. Ushuaia, the island's main city, is an attractive base for exploring the southwest's small national park, and for boat trips along the Beagle channel to Harberton, a fascinating pioneer *estancia*. There's good trout and salmon fishing, and a tremendous variety of bird life in summer. Autumn colours are spectacular in March and April.

Ins and outs

Getting there There are no road/ferry crossings between the Argentine mainland and Argentine Tierra del Fuego. You have to go through Chilean territory. (Accommodation is sparse and planes and buses fill up quickly from Nov to Mar. Essential to book ahead.) From Río Gallegos, Ruta 3 reaches the Chilean border at Monte Aymond (67 km; open 24 hours summer, 0900-2300 April-October), passing Laguna Azul. For bus passengers the border crossing is easy; hire cars need a document for permission to cross. 30 km into Chile is **Punta Delgada**, with a dock 23 km beyond for the 20-minute Magellan Strait ferry-crossing over the Primera Angostura (First Narrows) to **Bahía Azul** (cosy tea room). Boats run every 90 minutes, 0830-2215, in low season, more frequently in summer, US\$25 per vehicle, foot passengers US\$4, www.tabsa.cl. Some 140 km southeast is Chilean San Sebastián, and then 14 km east, across the border (24 hours), is Argentine San Sebastián, with a basic ACA motel (D), T02964-425542; service station open 0700-2300. From here the road is paved to Río Grande (see below). The other ferry crossing is **Punta Arenas-Porvenir**. RN255 from Punta Delgada goes west 113 km to the intersection with the Punta Arenas-Puerto Natales road. 5 km north of Punta Arenas centre, at Tres Puentes, there is a ferry crossing to Porvenir (Tuesday-Sunday, 2 hours 20 minutes, US\$50 per vehicle, bike US\$12, foot passengers US\$8, www.tabsa.cl – check timetable, subject to tides), from where a 234 km road runs east to Río Grande (six hours) via San Sebastián. The main road from San Sebastián (Argentina) to Ushuaia is paved, apart from the 65km from **Tolhuin** to Rancho Hambre. All other roads are *ripio* (unsurfaced). **Note** Fruit and meat may not be taken onto the island, nor between Argentina and Chile. ▶ For further details, see *Transport*, page 232. For details of transport and hotels on Chilean territory, see the Chile chapter.

Río Grande → *Population: 53,000. Phone code: 02964. Colour map 9, grid C2.*

Río Grande is a sprawling modern town in windy, dust-laden sheep-grazing and oil-bearing plains. (The oil is refined at San Sebastián in the smallest and most southerly refinery in the world.) The *frigorífico* (frozen meat) plant and sheep-shearing shed are among the largest in South America. Government tax incentives to companies in the 1970s led to a rapid growth in population; the subsequent withdrawal of incentives has produced increasing unemployment and emigration. The city was founded by Fagnano's Salesian mission in 1893; you can visit the original building **La Candelaria** ① 11 km north, T430667, Mon-Sat 1000-1200, 1500-1900, Sun 1500-1900, US\$1.50, afternoon teas, US\$3, getting there: taxi US\$6 with wait. The museum has displays of indigenous artefacts and natural history. Río Grande's **Museo de la Ciudad** ① Alberdi 555, T430414, Mon-Fri 0900-1700, Sat 1500-1900 is also recommended for its history of the pioneers, missions and oil. **Local festivals:** Sheep shearing in January. Rural exhibition and handicrafts 2nd week February. Shepherd's day, with impressive sheepdog display first week March. **Tourist office**, Instituto Fueguino de Turismo office ① Espora 533, T422887, www.tierradelfuego.org.ar, Mon-Fri 0900-2100, Sat 1000-2000, till 1700 in winter.

☞ Sleeping

Río Grande *p225*

Book ahead, as there are few decent choices. Several *estancias* offer full board and some, mainly on the northern rivers, have expensive fishing lodges: see www.tierradelfuego.org.ar.

L Estancia Viamonte, 40 km southeast on the coast, T430861, www.estanciaviamonte.com. For an authentic experience of Tierra del Fuego, built in 1902 by pioneer Lucas Bridges, writer of *Uttermost Part of the Earth*, to protect the indigenous Ona peoples, this working *estancia* has simple and beautifully furnished rooms in a spacious cottage. Reserve a week ahead, riding and trekking also arranged. Delicious meals.

B Posada de los Sauces, Elcano 839, T430868, www.posadadelossauces.com.ar. Best by far, with breakfast, beautifully decorated, comfortable, good restaurant, cosy bar.

C Atlántida, Belgrano 582, T431915, atlantida@netcombbs.com.ar. Modern, uninspiring but good value, with breakfast, cable TV.

D Isla del Mar, Güemes 963, T422883, www.hotelguia.com/hoteles/isladelmar. On sea shore, bleak and a bit run down, but breakfast included and staff are friendly.

F pp Argentino, San Martín 64, T422546, hotelargentino@yahoo.com. Cheap place with thin walls, also has doubles (C) and rooms with or without bath, poor breakfast, kitchen.

Camping

Refugio Camping Club Náutico, T420536, nauticorg@speedy.com.ar, Rita and Carlos Hansen. Very helpful.

🍴 Eating

Río Grande *p225*

¶ La Nueva Colonial, Av Belgrano y Lasserre. Delicious pasta, warm family atmosphere.

¶ La Nueva Piamontesa, restaurant and 24-hr grocery store at Av Belgrano y Mackinlay, T426332. Cheap set menus and take away.

¶ La Rueda, Islas Malvinas 998. Excellent *parrilla*.

● Transport

Río Grande *p225*

Air Airport 4 km west of town, T420600. Taxi US\$2. To **Buenos Aires**, AR daily, 3½ hrs direct. LADE flies to **Río Gallegos**.

Bus To **Punta Arenas**, Chile, via Punta Delgada, 7-9 hrs, **Pacheco** (T425611) and **Tecni Austral** (Moyano 516, T430610), US\$25. To **Río Gallegos**, **Tecni Austral**, Mon-Sat, 8 hrs, US\$20. To **Ushuaia**, 3½-4 hrs, **Tecni Austral**, Mon-Sat 1800, US\$8.50, **Pacheco**, **Montiel** (25 de Mayo 712, T420997) and **Líder** (Perito Moreno 635, T420003), US\$10.

Car hire **Europcar**, Av Belgrano 423, T430365. **Localiza**, San Martín 642, T430191.

● Directory

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Airline offices **Aerolíneas Argentinas**, San Martín 607, T424467. **LADE**, Lasserre 447, T422968.

Banks ATMs: 4 banks on San Martín entre 100 y 300. Exchange is difficult: if coming from Chile, buy Argentine pesos there. **Post offices** **Rivadavia** 968. **Supermarkets** **La Nueva Piamontesa**, see Eating, above. **Norte**, San Martín y Piedrabuena, good selection; also **La Anónima** on San Martín.

Telephone *Locutorios* all along San Martín.

Ushuaia and around → Phone code: 02901. Colour map 9, grid C2. Population: 45,000.

Situated 212 km southwest of Río Grande on new road via Paso Garibaldi, the most southerly town in Argentina and growing fast, Ushuaia is beautifully positioned on the northern shore of the Beagle Channel, which is named after the ship in which Darwin sailed here in 1832. Its streets climb steeply towards snow-covered Cerro Martial and there are fine views over the Beagle Channel to the jagged peaks of Isla Navarino (Chile). **Tourist offices** ☎ *San Martín 674, esq Fadul, T/F432001, www.e-ushuaia.com. Mon-Fri 0800-2000, Sat-Sun 0900-2000.* 'Best in Argentina', very helpful English speaking staff, who will find you accommodation in summer. Information available in English, French, German and Portuguese. There is also a tourist office at the port and a desk at the airport. **Oficina Antártica**, at Muelle Turístico, T421423 (ext 33), daily in summer 0800-1900; Monday-Friday 0900-1700 in low season, provides general information on Antarctica with a small library with navigational charts.

Sights

First settled in 1884 by missionary Thomas Bridges, whose son Lucas became a great defender of the indigenous peoples here, Ushuaia's fascinating history is still visible in its old buildings and at **Estancia Harberton**, 85 km west (see below). A penal colony for many years, the old prison, **Presidio** ☎ *Yaganes y Gob Paz, at the back of the Naval Base, Mon-Sun 1000-2000, 226*

US\$8.50 for foreigners, houses the small **Museo Marítimo**, with models and artefacts from seafaring days, and, in the cells of most of the huge five wings, the **Museo Penitenciario**, which details the history of the prison (be prisoner for an hour, Monday-Friday evenings in high season, to book T436321, US\$8.50, not for under 15s). There is also an art gallery and an Antarctic hall. During the excellent guided visits (in Spanish only) a replica of the lighthouse that inspired Jules Verne's novel is seen from inside. Highly recommended. **Museo del Fin del Mundo** ⓘ Maipú y Rivadavia, T421863, www.tierradelfuego.org.ar/museo, daily 0900-2000 (Nov-Apr), 1200-1900 (May-Oct, Mon-Sat), US\$3.50, students US\$1.70. In the 1912 bank building, it has small displays on indigenous peoples, missionaries and first settlers, as well as nearly all the birds of Tierra del Fuego (stuffed). Recommended. The building also contains an excellent library with helpful staff. **Museo Yámana** ⓘ Rivadavia 56, T422874, www.tierradelfuego.org.ar/mundoyamana, daily 1000-2000 high season, 1200-1900 low season, US\$1.70. Scale models depicting the geological evolution of the island and the everyday life of Yamana people, texts in English, also recommended. **Centro Beagle** ⓘ Luis Pedro Figue 121, T432090, www.centrobeagle.com, Oct-Mar 1200-2400, closed Mon, is a representation of Fitzroy's ship, with a model Yámana village where meals are served. Its main attraction is a dramatisation of Darwin's visit to Tierra del Fuego, *La Aventura del Beagle*, one-hour show, full of humour, in English and Spanish. Local events: winter solstice, the longest night with a torch-light procession and fireworks, 20-21 June.

Tren del Fin del Mundo ⓘ T431600, www.trendelfindelmundo.com.ar, 3 departures daily in summer, 1 in winter, US\$20 tourist, US\$35 1st class return, plus US\$7 park entrance and US\$2.50 for taxi to the station, tickets at station, travel agencies, or from Tranex kiosk in the port, sit on left outbound for the best views, is the world's southernmost steam train, running new locomotives and carriages on track first laid by prisoners to carry wood to Ushuaia. A totally touristy experience with relentless commentary in English and Spanish, 50-minute ride from the Fin del Mundo station, 8 km west of Ushuaia, into Tierra del Fuego National Park (one way of starting a hike).

Cerro Martial, about 7 km behind the town, offers fine views down the Beagle Channel and to the north. Take a chairlift (*aerosilla*), daily 1000-1800 (1030-1630 in winter), US\$3.50. To reach the chairlift, follow Magallanes out of town, allow 1½ hours. Several companies run minibus services from the corner of Maipú and Roca, frequent departures daily in summer, US\$3-4 return. Taxis charge US\$5 to the base, from where you can walk down all the way back. From the top you can walk 90 minutes to **Glaciar Martial**. Splendid tea shop and *cabañas* at the base, *refugio* up at the Cerro. Excursions can also be made to **Lagos Fagnano** and **Escondido**.

The **Estancia Harberton** ⓘ T422742, ngoodall@tierradelfuego.org.ar, US\$5, daily 15 Oct-15 Apr, except 25 Dec, 1 Jan and Easter, museum: US\$2, the oldest on the island and run by descendants of British missionary, Thomas Bridges, whose family protected the indigenous peoples here, is 85 km from Ushuaia on Ruta J. It's a beautiful place, offering guided walks through protected forest and delicious teas or lunch (reserve ahead), in the *Mánakatush casa de té* overlooking the bay. The impressive **Museo Acatushún** ⓘ www.aca-tushun.org, has skeletons of South American sea mammals and birds, the result of 23 years' scientific investigation in Tierra del Fuego, with excellent tours in English. You can camp free, with permission from the owners, or stay in cottages. Access is from a good unpaved road which branches off Ruta 3, 40 km east of Ushuaia and runs 25 km through forest before the open country around Harberton; marvellous views, about two hours (no petrol outside of Ushuaia and Tolhuin). Boat trips to Harberton, twice weekly in summer, allow 1-2 hours on the estancia. Regular daily minibus service with **Ebenezer** from Maipú y 25 de Mayo, US\$20 return.

Short boat excursions from Ushuaia are highly recommended, though the Beagle Channel can be very rough. These can be booked through most agencies, and most leave from the **Muelle Turístico**, where all operators have ticket booths, with a few using the **Muelle AFASYN** (next to old airport). Trip to the sea lion colony at Isla de los Lobos, Isla de los Pájaros and Les Eclaireurs lighthouse: 2½-3 hours on catamaran, US\$30; 4½ hours on the *Patagonian Adventure*, US\$40 including 1 hour trekking on Bridges island and hot drink; on the lovely old sailing boat *Barracuda*, excellent commentary, US\$25; or on a sailing boat *Patagonia Explorer* in summer, 4½ hours, US\$40. To Isla de los Lobos, Isla de los Pájaros, Les Eclaireurs lighthouse, and the Isla Martillo penguin colony (Oct-Mar only): 4½-6½ hours, US\$44. To Isla de los Lobos, Isla de los Pájaros, Isla Martillo penguin colony, Les Eclaireurs lighthouse and Estancia Harberton: 6-9 hours round trip on catamaran, US\$60, includes packed lunch and entrance fee, summer only. To the National Park, 5-5½ hrs, US\$35-60, includes lunch.

Sea trips **Cruceros Australis** 📍 www.australis.com, operates two luxury cruise ships (one weekly each) from Ushuaia to Punta Arenas, via Puerto Williams and around Cabo de Hornos, 4-5 days, from US\$1,244 pp in summer (book through agencies); frequently recommended. Ushuaia is also the starting point, or the last stop en route to Antarctica for several cruises from October to March that usually sail for 10-20 days along the western shores of the Antarctic peninsula and the South Shetland Islands. Other trips include stops at Falkland/Malvinas archipelago and at South Georgia. Cheapest fare to Antarctica with ship *Ushuaia* 📍 www.antarply.com, every 10 days Nov-Feb, around US\$3,000-4,000 pp in advance in a twin cabin (small discount, if available, if booked a few days before departure). Book through travel agencies. **Ushuaia Boating** 📍 www.ushuaiboating.com.ar, operates all year round a channel crossing to Puerto Navarino, 30 minutes, and then bus to Puerto Williams, 90 minutes, US\$100 one way. From Puerto Williams there are frequent ferries to Punta Arenas. At **Muelle AFASYN**, near the old airport, T435805, ask about possible crossings with a club member to Puerto Williams, about 4 hours, from US\$80, or if any foreign sailing boat is going to Cabo de Hornos or Antarctica.

Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego

📍 US\$8, getting there: in summer buses and minibuses, US\$5 return to Lago Roca and to Lapataia, US\$7, several companies, leaving from the tourist pier at Maipú y Roca and from Maipú y 25 de Mayo; last bus back 2000, 2100 in summer. Tierra del Fuego National Park Office, San Martín 1395, Ushuaia, T421315, Mon-Fri 0900-1600, has a basic map. Tourist office and National Park office have details and a map of park, with walks. See below for Camping.

Covering 63,000 ha of mountains, lakes, rivers and deep valleys, this small but beautiful park stretches west to the Chilean border and north to Lago Fagnano, though large areas are closed to tourists. Public access is allowed from the park entrance 12 km west of Ushuaia, where you'll be given a basic map with marked walks. **1) Senda Costera**, 6.5 km, three hours each way. Along the shore from Ensenada (where boat trips start). From Lago Roca, continue along to Bahía Lapataia, crossing the broad green river, where there are more short paths to follow. **2) Senda Hito XXIV**, along Lago Roca, 4 km, 90 minutes one way, lots of birdlife. **3) Cerro Guanaco** (1,106 m), 4 km, four hours one way. Challenging hike up through forest to splendid views. Campsite in a good spot at Lago Roca, with *confitería*, it's best to go early morning or afternoon to avoid the tour buses.

Argentina Ushuaia & around



You'll see geese, the torrent duck, Magellanic woodpeckers and austral parakeets. There are no legal crossing points to Chile. Helpful *guardaparque* (ranger) at Lago Roca. Remember that the weather can be cold, damp and unpredictable, even in summer; winter days are short.

☛ Sleeping

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The tourist office has a comprehensive list of all officially registered accommodation and will help with rooms in private homes, campsites etc. An excellent choice is to stay with Ushuaia families on a B&B basis.

LL Las Hayas, Camino Glaciar Martial, Km 3, T430710, www.lashayashotel.com.ar. Ushuaia's only 5 star, spectacular setting high up on the mountain, breakfast included, pool, sauna, gym, sports, shuttle from town and transfer from airport. Recommended.

L Cumbres del Martial, Luis F Martial 3560, 7 km from town, T424779, www.cumbresdelmartial.com.ar. Charming cottage, very comfortable rooms with balconies, small, relaxed, secluded, also 4 *cabañas*, all with fireplace, also has *La Cabaña* restaurant and tea room.

L Tierra de Leyendas, Tierra de Vientos 2448, T443565, www.tierradeleyendas.com.ar. In the western suburbs. Five very comfortable rooms with incredible views of the Beagle Channel, or the snowy mountains at the back, excellent restaurant serving regional specialties. Only for non smokers. Recommended.

AL Canal Beagle, Maipú y 25 de Mayo, T432303, www.hotelcanalbeagle.com.ar. Good value ACA hotel (discounts for members), with a small pool, gym, sauna and clear views over the channel from some rooms, good restaurant.

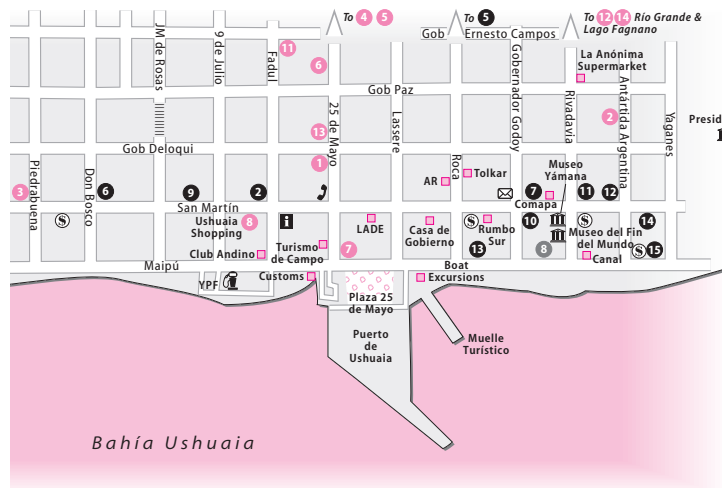
A Hostería Posada Fin del Mundo, Gob Valdez 281, T437345, www.posadafindelmundo.com.ar. Family atmosphere, comfortable rooms, good value.

B Cabo San Diego, 25 de Mayo 368, T435600, www.cabosandiego.com.ar. Apart-hotel with spacious apartments, equipped for cooking, comfortable, with breakfast. Excellent value.

B Cap Polonio, San Martín 746, T422140, www.hotelcappolonio.com.ar. Smart, central, modern, comfortable, TV, free internet, chic restaurant/café *Marcopolo*.

B Hostal Malvinas, Gob Deloqui 615, T/F422626, www.hostalmalvinas.net. Comfortable but small rooms, small breakfast, free tea and coffee.

B Nahuel, 25 de Mayo 440, T423068, byb_nahuel@yahoo.com.ar. Charming and talkative Sra Navarrete has a comfortable B&B with channel views from the upper rooms and the terrace, good value, but noisy street.



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El Turco 4

Moustacchio 10

Volver 15

Eating 🍴

Bodegón Fueguino 9

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Parrilla La Rueda 11

Bars & clubs 🍷

Café Tante Sara 2

La Estancia 7

Pizzas & Pastas 12

Lennon Pub 8

Martinica 14

Tía Elvira 13

D pp Familia Velásquez, Juana Fadul 361, T421719, almayo@arnet.com.ar. Cosy, welcoming house of a pioneer, with basic rooms, breakfast, cooking and laundry facilities, good.

D Galeazzi-Basily, Gdor Valdez 323, T423213, www.avesdelsur.com.ar. Easily the best, beautiful family home, incredible welcome, in pleasant area 5 blocks from centre, breakfast included, free internet. Also excellent value *cabañas* in the backyard. Recommended.

D Los Troncos, Gob Paz 1344, T/F421895. Comfortable house owned by Clarisa Ulloa, breakfast, cable TV and free internet.

E-F pp Amanecer de la Bahía, Magallanes 594, T424405, www.ushuaiahostel.com.ar. Light, spacious, impeccable, shared rooms for 4, but cramped for 6, also good double and triples **C** with shared bath, kitchen facilities, with breakfast, luggage store and own parking, AHC Argentina Hostel Club, www.argentinahostels.com.

F pp Albergue Cruz del Sur, Deloqui 636, T434099, www.xdelsur.com.ar. Welcoming Italian owner Luca, a nice, relaxed and small house with library, kitchen facilities and free tea, coffee and mate, book in advance, good for smokers. Recommended.

F pp Antartica, Antártida Argentina 270, T435774, www.antarcticahostel.com. Central, welcoming, spacious chill-out room, excellent 24-hr bar, dorms for 6 and large **C** doubles, breakfast and internet included, bike rental (US\$8.50 per day) and the omnipresence of Tino, the dog. Recommended.

F pp Yakush, Piedrabuena 118 y San Martín, T435807, www.hostelyakush.com.ar. Very-well run, central with spacious dorms, with breakfast, free internet, light kitchen and dining room and a steep garden with views. Recommended.

Camping La Pista del Andino, Leandro N Alem 2873, T435890, www.lapistadelandino.com.ar. Set in the Club Andino ski premises in a woodland area, it has wonderful views over the channel. Electricity, hot showers, tea room and grocery store, US\$3 pp.

Around Ushuaia p226

LL Estancia Harberton, T422742, harberton@tierradelfuego.org.ar. 2 restored buildings on the channel 90 km east of Ushuaia, very simple rooms, wonderful views, heating. Open mid-Oct-mid-Apr. Price given for 6 people.

A Hostería Petrel, RN 3, Km 3186, T02901-433569, hpetrel@infovia.com.ar. Secluded position in forest on the fjord-like

Lago Escondido, 50 km from Ushuaia towards Río Grande. Decent rooms with bath, good restaurant overlooking lake, and tiny basic *cabañas*. Idyllic but pricey.

C Cabañas Khami, on Lago Fagnano, 8 km from Tolhuin, T422296, www.cabaniaskhami.com.ar. Well-equipped, rustic cabins, good value with linen. Price given for 6 people.

D Parador Kawi Shiken, 4 km south of Tolhuin on RN3, Km 2945, TT156 11505, www.hotelguia.com/hoteles/kawi-shiken/. Rustic, 3 rooms, shared bath, *salón de té* and restaurant, horse riding.

D pp Refugio Solar del Bosque, 19 km from Ushuaia, RN3, Km 3020, T156 06176, www.solar-del-bosque.com.ar. A basic hostel for walkers, arranges excursions. Also has camping, US\$2.50 pp, hot showers.

Camping Camping Haruwen, in the Haruwen Winter Sports complex (Km 36), T431099, US\$3 per tent, electricity, shop, bar, restaurant, winter and summer activities.

Camping inside the Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego **Camping Lago Roca**, T433313, 21 km from Ushuaia, by forested shore of Lago Roca, a beautiful site with good facilities, reached by bus Jan-Feb, expensive small shop, cafetería. There are also various sites with no facilities, eg **Bahía Ensenada** 14 km from Ushuaia; **Río Pipo** 16 km; **Las Bandurrias**, **Cauquenes** and **Laguna Verde**, 20 km from Ushuaia.

Eating

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Lots of restaurants along San Martín and Maipú. Ask around for currently available seafood, especially *centolla* (king crab; US\$14 on average) and *cholga* (giant mussels). Much cheaper if prepare your own meal; **Pesquera del Beagle**, Maipú 227, sells *centollón* (US\$3 per kg; US\$11 per kg ready to eat) and *centolla* (US\$9 per kg; US\$18 per kg ready to eat, just add lemon).

🍷 Bodegón Fueguino, San Martín 859. Tapas, homemade pastas and good roast lamb with varied sauces in a renovated 1896 house.

🍷 Kaupé, Roca 470 y Magallanes, T437396. Best restaurant in town, dishes, eg king crab, meat.

🍷 Tía Elvira, Maipú 349. Excellent seafood.

🍷 Volver, Maipú 37. Delicious seafood and fish in atmospheric 1898 house, with ancient newspaper all over the walls.

🍷 For an explanation of the sleeping and eating price codes used in this guide, see page 58.

🍷 Other relevant information is found in Essentials pages 68-69.

🍷 **La Estancia**, San Martín 253. A cheery and good value *parrilla*. Packed in high season. All-you-can-eat for US\$7.

🍷 **Moustacchio**, San Martín y Gdor Godoy. Long established, good for seafood. On San Martín 272, there is a cheaper all-you-can-eat branch.

🍷 **Parrilla La Rueda**, San Martín y Rivadavia. Good *tenedor libre* (US\$7) for beef, lamb and great salads.

🍷 **Tante Sara Pizzas and Pastas**, San Martín 137. Tasty filling food. Also takeaway.

🍷 **El Turco**, San Martín 1410. One of the few good cheap places, serving generous milanesas, pastas, pizzas and beef. Very popular with locals.

🍷 **Martinica**, San Martín entre Antártida Argentina y Yaganes. Cheap, small, busy, sit at the bar facing the *parrilla* and point to your favourite beef cut. Takeaway (T432134) and good meals of the day.

Cafés

Café Tante Sara, San Martín y Fadul. Opposite the tourist office, is the best, smart, good coffee, tasty sandwiches.

La Baguette, Don Bosco y San Martín. Best fresh takeaway sandwiches, also delicious *empanadas* and *facturas* (pastries).

🍷 Bars and clubs

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Küar, Av Perito Moreno 2232, east of town. Wonderful setting by the Beagle channel; restaurant/bar/brewery open from 1500.

Lennon Pub, Maipú y Gob Godoy. Good place for a late night drink, with live music.

🛍 Shopping

Ushuaia p226, map p228

Ushuaia's tax free status doesn't produce as many bargains as you might hope. Lots of souvenir shops on San Martín and several offering good quality leather and silver ware.

Atlántico Sur, San Martín 627, is the (not especially cheap) duty free shop.

Boutique del Libro, 25 de Mayo 62. A good range of books on Patagonia and Antarctica.

La Anónima, Gob Paz y Rivadavia and San Martín y Onas. Large supermarket.

Norte, 12 de Octubre y Karukinka. Supermarket, takeaway, fresh food, and fast-food diner.

Popper, San Martín 740. Sells outdoor clothes, camping and fishing gear.

Vraie, San Martín y 25 de Mayo. Lots of clothes.

World's End, San Martín y Lasserre. Books on the area, as well as T shirts and key rings.

▲ Activities and tours

Ushuaia p226, map p228

Sports Centre on Malvinas Argentinas on west side of town (close to seafront). Swimming pool.

Fishing

Trout season is Nov-mid Apr, licences US\$10 per day (an extra fee is charged for some rivers and lakes). **Asociación de Caza y Pesca** at Maipú 822, T423168, cazapescush@infovia.com.ar, Mon-Fri 1800-2100, sells licences.

Hiking and, climbing

Club Andino, Fadul 50, T422335, www.clubandinoushuaia.com.ar. For advice, Mon-Fri 1000-1230, 1400-2130; Sat 1000-1400. Sells maps and trekking guidebooks; free guided walks once in a month in summer. The winter sports resorts along Ruta 3 (see below) are an excellent base for summer trekking and many arrange excursions.

Nunatak, 19.5 km from Ushuaia, nunatak@tierradelfuego.org.ar, is a small centre run by Gustavo Giró, who organizes eg day-treks to Glaciar Ojo de Albino past Laguna Perdida, US\$40.

Skiing

Ushuaia is becoming popular as a winter resort with several centres for skiing, snowboarding and husky sledging. By far the best is **Cerro Castor complex**, 27 km from town, T499302, www.cerrocator.com. 20 km of pistes, a vertical drop of 772 m and powder snow. Attractive centre with complete equipment rental for snowboarding and snowshoeing. Ski pass US\$35 per day. Excellent cross country skiing, with various new centres along Ruta 3 at 18-36 km east of Ushuaia, of which **Tierra Mayor**, 21 km from town, T423240, or 155 13463, is the largest and recommended. In a beautiful wide valley between steep-sided mountains, offering half and full day excursions on sledges with huskies for hire, as well as cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Equipment hire and restaurant.

Tours

Lots of companies offer imaginative adventure tourism expeditions. All agencies charge the same fees for excursions; ask tourist office for a complete list: Tierra del Fuego National Park, 4 hrs, US\$17 (entry fee US\$8 extra); Lagos Escondido and Fagnano, 7 hrs, US\$25 with lunch. With 3 or 4 people it might be worth hiring a *remise* taxi.

All Patagonia, Juana Fadul 48, T433622, www.allpatagonia.com. Trekking, ice climbing, and tours; trips to Cabo de Hornos and Antarctica.

Canal, Rivadavia 82, T437395, www.canal.fun.com. Huge range of activities, trekking, canoeing, riding, 4WD excursions. Recommended.

Comapa, San Martín 245, T430727, www.comapa.com. Conventional tours and adventure tourism, bus tickets to Punta Arenas and Puerto Natales, trips to Antarctica, Cabo de Hornos and Navimag ferries for Puerto Natales-Puerto Montt (10% ISIC discount for Navimag tickets).

Compañía de Guías de Patagonia, Gob Campos 795, T437753, www.companiadeguias.com.ar. The best agency for walking guides, expeditions for all levels, rock and ice climbing (training provided), US\$55 pp for a day-trek and climb on ice, including equipment, transport. Recommended.

Rumbo Sur, San Martín 350, T421139, www.rumbosur.com.ar. Flights, buses, conventional tours, plus Antarctic expeditions, mid-Nov to mid-Mar, English spoken.

Tolkar, Roca 157, T431412, www.tolkar.turismo.com.ar. Flights, bus tickets to Argentina and Chile, trips to Cabo de Hornos and to Antarctica, conventional and adventure tourism, canoeing and mountain biking to Lago Fagnano.

Travel Lab, San Martín y 9 de Julio, T436555, travellabush@speedy.com.ar. Tren del Fin del Mundo, unconventional tours, mountain biking, trekking etc, trips to Cabo de Hornos and Antarctica, Navimag ferries, English and French spoken, helpful.

Turismo de Campo, Fuegia Basket 414, T/F437351, www.turismodecampo.com. Adventure tourism, English/French speaking guides, boat and trekking trips in the National Park, bird watching, sailing and trips to Antarctica.

● Transport

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Air Airport 4 km from town. Book ahead in summer; flights fill up fast. In winter flights often delayed. Taxi to airport US\$3 (no bus). Schedules tend to change from season to season. Airport tourist information only at flight times, T423970. To **Buenos Aires** (Aeroparque or Ezeiza), 3½ hrs, **El Calafate**, 1 hr, and **Río Gallegos**, 1 hr, with AR/Austral and LADE (longer flights); also to **Río Grande**, 1 hr, several a week (but check with agents). In summer **Aerovías DAP** and **LAN** fly to **Punta Arenas**. The **Aeroclub de Ushuaia** flies Mon, Wed, Fri to **Puerto Williams**, US\$100 one way from the downtown airport.

Bus Urban buses from west to east across town, most stops along Maipú, US\$0.45. Tourist office

provides a list of minibuses that run daily from town (stops along Maipú) to nearby attractions, eg Harberton, Lago Fagnano, National Park. Passport needed when booking international bus tickets. Buses always booked up Dec-Mar; buy your ticket to leave as soon as you arrive. To **Río Grande**, 3½-4 hrs, bus **Tecni Austral**, Mon-Sat 0530, US\$8.50, leaves from Roca y Deloqui, book through **Tolkar** (address above), and combis **Lider** (Gob Paz 921, T436421), and **Montiel** (San Martín 1547, T421366), US\$10.

To **Río Gallegos**, **Tecni Austral**, 11½ hrs, US\$30 (through **Tolkar**). To **Punta Arenas**, **Tecni Austral**, Mon, Wed, Fri 0530, 11½ hrs (through **Tolkar**); also Oct-Apr, **Pacheco**, 12-13 hrs, US\$34 (book through **Comapa**, address above). To **Puerto Natales**, Oct-Apr, **Bus Sur**, 15 hrs, US\$38.

Car hire Most companies charge about US\$45 per day, including insurance and 150 km per day, special promotions available. **Localiza**, San Martín 1222, T430739. **Europcar**, Maipú 857, T430786.

Taxi Cheaper than *remises*, T422007, T440225. **Remises Carlitos**, T422222; **Bahía Hermosa**, T422233.

● Directory

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Airline offices **Aerolíneas Argentinas**, Roca 116, T421218. **Aerovías DAP**, Deloqui 555, p 4, T431110. **LADE**, San Martín 542, shop 5, T/F421123. **Banks** Banks open 1000-1500 in summer. ATMs are plentiful all along San Martín, using credit cards is easiest (but Sat, Sun and holidays machines can be empty), changing TCs is difficult and expensive. **Banco de Tierra del Fuego**, San Martín 396 (also open on summer weekends 1000-1300 for exchange only), **Agencia de Cambio Thaler**, San Martín 788, also open weekends, 1000-1300, 1700-2030. **Consulates** **Chile**, Jainen 50, T430909. **Germany**, Rosas 516. **Internet** Many broadband **cyber cafés** and **locutorios** along San Martín. **Post offices** San Martín y Godoy, Mon-Fri 0900-1900, Sat 0900-1300.

Telephones **Locutorios** all along San Martín.

Useful addresses **Dirección Nacional de Migraciones**, Beauvoir 1536, T422334. **Biblioteca Popular Sarmiento**, San Martín 1589, www.bpsarmiento.com.ar. Mon-Fri 1000-1800, library with a good range of books about the area.