

FACT SHEET



OPEN FROM OCTOBER UNTIL END OF MARCH

Described by The New York Times as “Argentina’s Secret (and Private) Answer to the Galapagos” this 198.000 acres property houses a seaside lodge surrounded by 360 degrees of nature. Founded as an algae settlement, Bahía Bustamante is part of the first Marine National Park - “Patagonia Austral” and has been declared an IBA (Important Birding Area). We are also part of “Blue Patagonia” Biosphere Reserve”: only a few places in the world house such an amount and diversity of seabirds and marine mammals

Remote and exclusive, with the philosophy of sustainability and preserving the natural habitat, it is ideal for nature lovers. Activities include bird (penguins and more) and sea lion watching, visit to the petrified forest, to the seaweed industry, and to a typical Patagonian ranch with more than 20.000 sheep (where holistic management is applied, aiming to restore Patagonia grasslands) panoramic trekkings, horseback riding and mountain bike. Relaxing and enjoying the most exclusive sandy beaches and crystal-clear water, surrounded by huge red rocks is also possible.

SPOT: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IC9h1usWyYA&feature=youtu.be>

PHOTOS: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dcyhnn8a9yny0sr/AADtMuYAS1qtKTK1QQimHJD4a?dl=0>

**Please, when the photos mention the photographer, credits should be included. Thanks!*

LOCATION

Bahía Bustamante is located 300 km southwards from Peninsula Valdes (Chubut). Closest airports are Comodoro Rivadavia (110 miles/180 km) and Trelew (155 miles/250 km). We provide private transfer service with an additional cost. Other options are renting a car or taking a regular bus service and combine it with a private transfer.

HISTORY

Mr. Lorenzo Soriano (Baeza, Jaen, Spain, 1901-1987) arrived in this area in 1953, searching for seaweed which would enable the production of “Malvic” hair gel, which he produced from 1947. After traveling all over the Patagonian coastline in search of seaweed, he discovered Bahía Bustamante, known then as the “Rotten Bay”, due to the accumulation of rotten seaweed. He decided to carry out a preliminary research and then, together with his four sons, started the seaweed harvest. It was at that moment that this exclusive village was born. Back then, there were only two constructions by the sea. They settled there and began to build Bahía Bustamante. They built houses and rooms for more than 400 employees, with its own school, church, police station, warehouses, workshop and grocery store, among other things. Later, more hectares were incorporated, which led to the beginning of the rural activity.

Today, with only 30 inhabitants, this small seaweed town dedicated for 4 generations to sustainable production opens its doors to travelers all over the world, offering the exclusivity of being surrounded by 360 degrees of nature and with access to a great diversity and amount of fauna. Since December, 2008, its coasts are part of the National Park “Patagonia Austral”, which protects 1 marine mile from the coast and around 50 islands.



ACCOMMODATION

4 SEA VIEW HOUSES

Each house has 2 bedrooms, living room, and fully equipped bathroom. Mini bar & ocean front view terrace. The program includes full board (except beverages) and activities, which are coordinated the night before and are subject to weather conditions & tide tables. Bicycles at disposal.

2 SUPERIOR SEA VIEW HOUSES

More spacious and comfortable. Same distribution and program as the Sea View Houses, cozier and with a large window which allows to enjoy the sea view from the interior of the Houses.
Coffee machine & exclusive small winery.

5 STEPPE HOUSES

Much simpler than the Sea View Houses, they are located just behind them. Each house has one double room, dining room, bathroom, a cooktop and basic tableware, and a small living room with a single bed. This option does not include activities or meals. Maximum capacity of each house is 3 people.

OLD GROCERY STORE: houses the common areas of the Hotel and still has a typical Patagonia atmosphere:

- **The Restaurant:** Regional food based on typical products of the area is served: seaweed, different kinds of meat, fish and other marine products, fruits and vegetables from our organic garden.
- **The Museum:** A collection of old photographs of the village and its old ways, showing the first steps of the seaweed industry worldwide, that took place in these coasts. This was how Bahia Bustamante was born in 1950.
- **The Club:** a game room with Pool, ping-pong, table-football, etc.
- **Bar & Living Room:** Perfect to relax while watching the sea through the immense windows, enjoying the special lighting & fabulous sunsets that Patagonia offers. In the small library you will find books, bird guides and more. The bar is situated in a corner of the living room.

SEA VIEW HOUSES & SUPERIOR SEA VIEW HOUSES

IT INCLUDES: breakfast (simple, traditional Argentina's breakfast - no eggs), lunch/picnic basket and dinner (fixed menu) and all the scheduled activities. Activities: Navigation to see marine wildlife, 4x4 or trekking around Graviña Peninsula, Penguin Island, Petrified Forest, historic tour around the town, Aristizabal Cape visit, trekking around the Canyon. Check description below.

IT DOES NOT INCLUDE: In / Out transfers, beverages, mini bar, gratuities, laundry service, telephone, insurance & extra activities (Horseback riding & others).

Maximum sleeping capacity:

Houses can accommodate up to 4 guests. Accommodation is exclusive. Estimated maximum guests per day in Sea View Houses: 18. If it is a special group we may be able to accommodate up to 24 guests.

PHOTOS: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/x78veg1efdxtvdy/AAAL-c6LnVFkF0r-FX4Z3Uida?dl=0>

STEPPE HOUSES

IT INCLUDES: Linens, daily cleaning, basic tableware for 3 people, a cook top, refrigerator and grill (1 grill every 2 Steppe Houses). Access to Graviña Peninsula without guide, Restaurant, Living Room, Club, always respecting our regulations.

IT DOES NOT INCLUDE: In / Out transfers, meals, activities or dish washing.



PLEASE CONSIDER:

- **There is no supermarket in Bahia Bustamante.** The nearest one is 90 Km. away in Camarones. You may also find supermarkets in Comodoro Rivadavia (180Km.) or Trelew (253Km). Plan to shop for groceries before reaching the Lodge.
- **Activities:** Once in Bahia Bustamante, you may participate in the activities offered. These cannot be booked in advance and are subject to operational capacity (Sea View Houses guests have priority) and weather conditions.
- **Meals:** With an additional cost Steppe Houses guests will be able to have breakfast, lunch or dinner at the Restaurant, as long as there is availability (Sea View Houses guests have priority). We also offer a simple delivery service.
- Guests cannot enter the old Grocery Store with food or drinks.

Maximum sleeping capacity:
5 houses with a maximum capacity of 3 guests each: Total 15 guests.

PHOTOS: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/px6bs62bgv0szhx/AAALZYXD3kV8SfsqjFPYoh8a?dl=0>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Check In: 01:00 pm. / Check Out: 10.00 am.** If guests arrive earlier, they may use the common areas.
- **Electricity:** The Lodge has electricity from sunset until late night, supplied by an electric generator. Once the lights go out each House is still illuminated by battery lights. We recommend bringing a flashlight.
- **Wi Fi:** The Lodge has a very basic wi fi satellite connection, only available at the Restaurant from 7 pm to 00 hs. It is not reliable and very slow.
- **Telephone:** there is no mobile phone signal. We have a telephone at disposal. This service has an extra cost.
- **Laundry Service:** available with an extra cost.
- **Credit Cards:** We accept VISA, American Express and MasterCard once at the Lodge.
- **Bilingual Attention:** Spanish – English.
- **Activities:** Are scheduled and informed the previous night. Since they are subject to weather conditions, the order in which they are carried out is subject to change. All activities are carried out within the property and no activity demands important physical effort.
- **Restaurant:** Guests cannot access the old Grocery Store with food or drinks.
 - **BREAKFAST** is a typical, simple, argentine breakfast. We offer cereal, fruit, homemade bread toasts, homemade jam and butter (it all depends on the season), grain fresh coffee, tea, hot chocolate.
 - **LUNCH & DINNER:** Fixed menu with entrance, main course and dessert. Beverages are not included in the rate. Please keep in mind that the menu is varied, always considering the limitations of being in a place which is far away from big cities. We serve fish, different types of pasta, lamb, marine seafood and other traditional Argentina dishes, depending on the availability of these products.
 - Lunch is served until 2 pm. In case guests arrive later, they will be able to enjoy a snack or tea.
 - **Uncork:** we have our own wine and drinks menu. In case guests prefer to bring their own wine, uncorking service will be charged.
- **Pets:** Small dogs are allowed. Please inform Reservations Office if you are bringing your pet. Guests should consider that in Bahia Bustamante there are dogs and other animals which are not tied, so pets should always be tied and are responsibility of their owners.



- **Children:** Children under 10 years old are not allowed in the living room area. “The Club” is reserved for them, with different games.
- **Respect the environment:** We are located inside a National Park. Please, take care of your own garbage and do not take seashells, fossils, and other object of the park. Those using vehicles always travel along marked paths, without stepping out of them. Do not drive along the beaches. .
- **First Aid, CPR.**

ACTIVITIES

Ideal for nature lovers, this place offers different activities such as bird and sea lion watching, visit to the Petrified Forest, seaweed industry, and to a typical Patagonian ranch, panoramic trekking, and mountain bike. You can also just relax and enjoy the most exclusive sandy beaches and crystal-clear water, surrounded by huge red rocks, in an atmosphere of incredibly different textures and colors. With its huge number of geographic accidents, sounds and quietness, Bahía Bustamante is a paradise for you to discover. Horseback riding and kayak are also possible (with an extra cost).

IMPORTANT

The possibility of participating in all the activities planned is a decision that is subject to the guide’s criteria.

- **NAVIGATION (3 to 4 hours approx.) Sailing along Malaspina Cove visiting Sea Lion and Seabird colonies**
After breakfast, we gather at the grocery store and assess the weather report and the tide tables to determine whether sailing is possible. We get on the boat and sail along the seaweed fields where we come across vessels working on the seaweed harvest. Later we sail on the mussel crops and tell you all about the breeding online system we use. Finally we approach the islands within the cove, the Vernacci Islands, and while sailing, contemplate Sea Lion colonies (4000 animals during the breeding season), Magellan Penguins (100.000 – Season: October to March) and colorful Marine Bird colonies. Then we moor the boat and return to the village.
Important: Navigation can only be done during high tide and if weather conditions allow.
- **THE PENINSULA (4 hours approx.):** Graviña Peninsula is a 70 km Peninsula of sandy beaches, crystal clear water and reddish rocks. Biking, trekking or 4x4 are possible, this will depend on the preferences of the group. If the tide is low, natural swimming pools are formed in the rocks, ideal to take a bath if the weather is good. The peninsula also houses an archeological site.
- **PETRIFIED FOREST (4/5 hours approx.):** A 4x4 ride combined with trekking to the Petrified Forest, located 18 miles away from the town, within the limits of our land. Once there, we will travel 60 million years ago interpreting the different pieces. On foot, we arrive at “The Pyramid” where it is possible to listen to the Patagonian silence. During the visit, we will be able to observe all kinds of Steppe fauna too. This activity can also be done riding, with an extra cost.
- **PENGUIN ISLAND (3 hours approx.):** Just 15 minutes away from the town by 4x4, this island is home to a small colony of Magellan Penguins. During low tide it is possible to reach the island on foot, giving us the privilege of observing penguins and their nests closely. During the way we will also be able to observe all kinds of Steppe fauna.
- **ARISTIZABAL CAPE (4 to 5 hours approx.):** A 4x4 drive to reach Aristizabal Cape, an important rockery cape, which is characterized by its imposing landscape, dominated by the sea, the stone beaches and fauna. During the way, apart from enjoying the beautiful coastal landscape, we will also be able to observe all kinds of Steppe fauna. Once we reach Aristizabal Lighthouse, we will trek to see Sea Lions, which usually rest here. This is also a nesting area for much kind of marine birds.



- **ROCK CANYON (4 to 5 hours approx.):** Beautiful trekking down the canyon, an area which used to be a river and is now dry, offering the possibility of trekking until reaching the sea. Its 15 mts walls are formed by Jurassic rocks, from the Mesozoic era. During high tide it is possible to swim in the natural pools and it is also an archeological site, since aborigines used to visit this area too. The place has special weather conditions, which make it ideal for bird watching.
- **HISTORIC TOUR AND SEAWEED INDUSTRY (1 to 2 hours approx.):** Walking tour around the town, learning about its history, its founder, inhabitants, everything! We will also visit the working place where the seaweed harvest is carried out. There we get to know a varied number of species being marketed by our company, their processes and uses.
- **RURAL ACTIVITIES IN A TYPICAL PATAGONIAN RANCH (4 hours approx.):** Bahía Bustamante is part of a group of 3 Estancias which add up more than 80.000 hectares. In Estancia Las Mercedes you will understand the production process of wool and meat, and according to the season, you may participate of a day's work, visiting the corrals and learning about the different activities carried out: shearing, weaning, classification or marking of the sheep. When shearing begins in early August, the group of workers gathers up in one of the Estancias and then, after the job is done they move on to the next Estancia. A very intense month's work! Sheep shearing in Bahía Bustamante starts in August, we have more than 20.000 animals. As from August the Estancias activity calendar is very varied, and is in constant move until the end of April. Shear in August, marking in November and December, weaning in January and February, classification of the animals towards the end of February, the Ram Sale in February, and insemination in May, are part of the main attractions.

Other Activities: Trekking, Mountain Bike / **Activities with an extra cost:** Horseback riding, navigation in private Zodiac.

LOCAL FAUNA

MARINE FAUNA: Sea lion colonies on the islands (*Otaria Flavescens*), around 4000 animals, are a key component of the total population at the center of Patagonia, which make up around 20% of the total number living and breeding in the San Jorge Gulf area. The coast of Bahía Bustamante and Malaspina Cove has the greatest diversity of seabirds in all Patagonia. There are 21 breeding colonies, with 1 to 7 sea bird species each. Within these 12 marine species you may find the Magellan Penguin, which adds up to around 100,000 animals, and is one of the main tourist attractions of Chubut province. You will also find colonies of a varied number of birds, such as cormorants, ducks, herons, gulls, terns, petrels, skuas, among many others. The islands and islets of this region, noted for their diversity of flora and substratum and the richness of the marine fauna, create ideal conditions for the seabirds to reproduce. On the other hand, they are sheltered from the wind, the swell, and land predators such as armadillos, foxes or skunks.

The richness of the area also attracts the presence of Orcas, dolphins and Commerson's dolphin. With a little bit of luck, on their way from or to Valdes Peninsula, a Right Whale or an Elephant Seal may pay us a visit.

STEPPE FAUNA: By going around the area, you will be surprised to see all kinds of regional animals that live in the Patagonian steppe. Maras, lesser rheas and guanacos usually come across the traveler's way and, occasionally, some restless armadillo or skunk may lean out of a thorny bush. The sunset is the best moment to watch a great variety of birds, tinamous and even some grey fox.



	Sea Lions	Penguins	Marine Birds	Steppe Fauna	Petrified Forest	Patagonia Ranch	Seaweed Industry	Archaeological Sites
January								
February								
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								