

Argentina

In winning the 2007 US Open, Angel Cabrera firmly placed Argentina on the global golf map. With over 270 courses set in dramatic scenery, this beautiful country promises the golfing trip of a lifetime. It's a big country so it's worth setting aside two weeks and doing a "two-centre" holiday visiting both Buenos Aires and Patagonia.

Buenos Aires is a sophisticated city offering fine dining and excellent shopping. Catch a show and do the tango until late in the night.

Patagonia, meanwhile, is one of the most picturesque regions in the world. You'll discover towns scattered through the mountains and small cosy hotels where you can seek refuge after a round with a cup of locally produced hot chocolate. You'll also find emerald-green lakes and boundless national parks.

WHERE TO PLAY

The Jockey Club is one of the most prestigious venues in Buenos Aires. In Patagonia, Lloa Lloa sits on the Nahuel Huapi lake at the bottom of Mount López – a breathtaking spot for a course. The Nicklaus-designed Chapelco also features lakes and mountains and is a tough test.

£: An escorted 13-night trip to Buenos Aires and Patagonia costs from £1,375pp including breakfast, seven rounds of golf (including both the Jockey Club and Lloa Lloa) and some excursions including a tango dinner dance show. Flights extra.
T: Patagonia Golf on 800 4049 180
W: patagoniagolf.com



Feel the earth move at Los Glaciares

Vietnam

Recently voted Undiscovered Golf Destination of the Year, Vietnam is a beautiful country with a vibrant culture. Explore the temples and markets of Ho Chi Minh and play one of the many courses close to the city. Sail down the Saigon river and take in the breathtaking scenery.

One of the best courses is Ocean Dunes located 200km north-east of Ho Chi Minh City. Sculpted out of the dunes along the Eastern Sea, the Nick Faldo layout is fanned by warm coastal breezes.

The Dalat Palace Golf Club is a golf retreat that soothes the senses, invigorates the body and calms the mind. Featuring wide, forgiving fairways and surrounded by pine trees, it is set in rolling hills above the Xuan Huong lake, which comes into play on 10 holes.

W: vietnamgolf.co.uk



Vietnam is a superb alternative golf destination

Must try

Visit the Los Glaciares National Park, which is surrounded by snow-capped peaks and woods. There is almost 200km of ice on the move here and the only sound that can be heard is the crunch of ice as it brakes off the glacier and falls into Lake Argentine. Also discover petrified woods, crystal clear waterfalls and miles of hiking trails. Killer whales can be spotted in June when they come close to the coast. **W:** turismo.gov.ar



Glorious Chapelco

Words: Alicia Hamey Photography: Pictures Colour Library

