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LIFE IN THE HIGH ANDES

At 3800 metres above sea level, where the landscape is made up of volcanoes, desert and salt lakes, it seems unlikely that you would find much life. And yet, the Altiplano (a high plateau where the Andes Mountains are at their widest) is filled with colour and incredible wildlife. The mineral-rich soil gives the mountains many different shades - from red to brown and purple, and everything in between. The wetlands are speckled with bright pink flamingos, their feathers and long legs moving rhythmically against the bluest of skies.

Is this how you would have imagined the most arid place on Earth?

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PATAGONIA



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SPRING IN PATAGONIA

In Torres del Paine, snow is slowly melting off the high granite peaks, and large herds of guanacos (a camelid closely related to the llama) start crossing the Patagonian Steppe in search of food. Turquoise lakes and ever-changing skies contrast with the intense red sprouts of prickly Neneo bushes. Everything is silent, except for the whisper of the wind that whisks through the air carrying the scent of yellow Paramela blossoms. The guanacos never fully rest - there is always one on the lookout for pumas, whilst foxes also roam the land as condors soar above.

Did you know that in Chile spring starts in late September?

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IGUAZÚ



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THE BRAVE DUSKY SWIFTS

Iguazu Falls is home to more than 275 waterfalls, some of them measuring 80 metres in height. The mighty rush of falling water has created a network of waterways that has shaped and smoothed the surrounding basalt rocks, clearing flora and fauna from its path. However, one species has managed to make the magnificent cascades its home: the Great Dusky Swift. It is mesmerising to watch them fly through the thunderous curtains of water. All around these fast-moving birds, the verdant jungle pulses with life, and the sun filters through billions of droplets of rising water forming a rainbow overhead.

Did you know that the Iguazu Falls are part of the Atlantic Rainforest?

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