



ARGENTINA & CHILE

THE WONDERS OF PATAGONIA: JOURNEY TO THE END OF THE EARTH
11 Days | Choose your dates



Journey to the end of the earth — Patagonia! Starting in Argentina and ending in Chile, this program will introduce you to the unique wildlife and flora of this remote part of the world. Named by Ferdinand Magellan, Patagonia has spectacular landscapes and wildlife you will not soon forget. With a comfortable cruise and land exploration of Torres del Paine National Park, explore the wonders of this mountainous region with its natural lakes, glaciers, and forests.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the delightful and intriguing culture of Buenos Aires with a city excursion and wine tasting.
- Journey through Tierra del Fuego National Park, spotting wildlife species that thrive in its harsh environment.
- Board the M/V Stella Australis for a sailing voyage through the icy waters around the tip of the continent.
- View the impressive granite spires that give Torres del Paine National Park its name.
- Visit Magdalena Island for the opportunity to view a colony of more than 120,000 Magellanic Penguins.
- Witness remarkable panoramic views of some of the world's most astonishing and unique environments.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 - DEPART UNITED STATES

Depart U.S. on an overnight flight to Buenos Aires.

DAY 2 - BUENOS AIRES

Arrive at the Ministro Pistarini de Ezeiza International Airport and meet your Holbrook representative in the arrivals hall. Transfer to the hotel with free time until orientation in the afternoon. Later take a field trip to the towering seven-story Teatro Colón, a world-class center for opera, ballet, and classical music since 1908. The current building replaced the original Teatro Colón in front of the Plaza de Mayo from 1857 to 1888. Before dinner enjoy wine tasting at a local cellar/bar and learn about some of Argentina's famed regional wines. Dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight at Hotel Dazzler Recoleta. (LD)*

DAY 3 - USHUAIA

Transfer to the airport to catch the approximately 3.5 hour flight to Ushuaia, one of the southernmost cities in the world and a popular starting point for expeditions to Antarctica. This evening have a typical Fuegian dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight at Hotel Albatros. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - TIERRA DEL FUEGO N.P.

After breakfast visit Tierra del Fuego National Park, the country's first shoreline park. Native forests of lengas, coihues, ñires, canelos, and mossy foliage are home to guanacos, foxes, and muskrats. Short trails follow the southern edges of the park, providing visitors with scenic views of the Ensenada and Lapataia Bays and the famous Beagle Channel. Sea birds are abundant along the coast and include albatross, terns, geese, ducks, and gulls. Be on the lookout for condors, Magellanic Woodpeckers, and Austral Conures. A five-mile trail leading west from Bahía Ensenada passes through an area of archaeological importance, where you'll see grass-covered shell mounds left by the Yámana inhabitants hundreds of years ago. Next, enjoy a typical lamb asado lunch followed by some free time. Later transfer to Ushuaia's port to begin embarkation procedures on the M/V Stella Australis. After a welcome cocktail reception hosted by the captain and his crew, the ship departs for one of the most remote corners of planet Earth. During the night traverse the Beagle Channel and cross from Argentina into Chilean territorial waters. The lights of Ushuaia disappear as the boat turns into the narrow Murray Channel between Navarino and Hoste islands. *Overnight aboard M/V Stella Australis. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - CRUISE / CAPE HORN N.P. & WULAIYA BAY

Around the break of dawn, Stella Australis crosses Nassau Bay and enters the remote archipelago that comprises Cape Horn National Park. Weather and sea conditions permitting, go ashore on the windswept island that harbors legendary Cape Horn (Cabo de Hornos). Discovered in 1616 by a Dutch maritime expedition—and named after the town of Hoorn in West Friesland—Cape Horn is a sheer, 1,394-foot-high rocky promontory overlooking the turbulent waters of the Drake Passage. For many years it was the only navigation route between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and was often referred to as the “End of the Earth.” The park was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2005. The Chilean navy maintains a permanent lighthouse on the island, staffed by a lightkeeper and his family, as well as the tiny Stella Maris Chapel and modern Cape Horn Monument (currently awaiting repair after being damaged by fierce winds). Sailing back across Nassau Bay, anchor at fabled Wulaiya Bay, one of the few places in the archipelago where the human history is just as compelling as the natural environment. Originally the site of one of the region's largest Yámana aboriginal settlements, the bay was described by Charles Darwin and sketched by Captain FitzRoy in the 1830s during their voyages on HMS Beagle. This area is also renowned for its mesmerizing beauty and dramatic geography. After

a visit to the Australis-sponsored museum in the old radio station—which is especially strong on the Yámana people and European missionaries in the area—have a choice of three hikes (of increasing degrees of difficulty) that ascend the heavily wooded mountain behind the bay. On all of these, stroll through an enchanted Magellanic forest of lengas, coihues, canelos and ferns to reach panoramic viewpoints overlooking the bay. *Overnight aboard M/V Stella Australis. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - CRUISE / DE AGOSTINI SOUND

After nightfall reenter the Beagle Channel and sail westward along the southern edge of Tierra del Fuego into a watery wonderland protected within the confines of Alberto de Agostini National Park. Rounding the Brecknock Peninsula as the western extreme of Tierra del Fuego, Stella Australis is briefly exposed to the open Pacific. Navigate a zigzag route through the Cockburn Channel, Magdalena Channel and Keats Fjord to reach scenic De Agostini Sound. Named after an Italian Salesian priest who worked among the region's indigenous people during the first half of the 20th century, De Agostini Sound is flanked by numerous glaciers and sheer, saw-toothed peaks reminiscent of Torres del Paine. The shore excursion this morning is Águila (“Eagle”) Glacier, which hovers above a placid glacial lagoon surrounded by primeval forest. After a Zodiac landing on the beach, hike around the edge of the lagoon to a spot near the base of the frozen facade. Condors can sometimes be seen winging high above, but there is always abundant bird life around the lagoon. This landing provides the perfect opportunity to experience the beauty of Patagonia's sub-Antarctic rainforest and to see how the power of nature has molded the spectacular landscape. *Overnight aboard M/V Stella Australis. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - TORRES DEL PAINE N.P.

After an overnight cruise through Magdalena Channel and back into the Strait of Magellan, anchor off Magdalena Island, which lies about halfway between Tierra del Fuego and the Chilean mainland. Crowned by a distinctive lighthouse, the island used to be an essential source of supplies for navigators and explorers and is inhabited by an immense colony of Magellanic Penguins. At the break of dawn, weather permitting, go ashore and hike a path that leads through thousands of penguins to a small museum lodged inside the vintage 1902 lighthouse. Many other bird species are also found on the island. In September and April—when the penguins dwell elsewhere—this excursion is replaced by a ride aboard Zodiacs to Marta Island to observe South American sea lions. After a short cruise south along the strait, disembarkation at Punta Arenas is scheduled for around 11:30 am. Transfer approximately three hours to Torres del Paine via Puerto Natales. Upon arrival walk down the city's quaint streets before lunch at a local restaurant. Continue the last two hours of the journey to Torres del Paine, admiring Patagonia's breathtaking vistas, snow-peaked mountains and rolling plains dotted with guanacos along the way. Stop en route to visit a massive prehistoric cave where remains of a giant ground sloth were discovered in the 1890s. The site is located in a transition zone, where forests and arid plains meet, and is home to a large number of bird species. Arrive at Cabañas del Paine situated along the southern border of the Torres del Paine National Park and check in. Dinner and orientation. *Overnight at Cabañas del Paine. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - TORRES DEL PAINE N.P.

This morning drive across Torres del Paine National Park with views of Paine Grande and its snowy peaks as well as Los Cuernos, the famous mountain with black granite, horn-like spires. Walk along the shores of stunning Lake Pehoe and visit the furious Salto Grande Falls which pour the waters of Lake Nordenskjold into Pehoe. Continue over the gentle Nordenskjold Trail until reaching its picture-perfect lookout point. After returning to the vehicle back at Lake Pehoe, drive south to a beach along the shores of glacial Lake Grey to have a boxed lunch. Continue with a walk around Lake Grey for a better view of the glacier. Return to hotel. *Overnight at Cabañas del Paine. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - TORRES DEL PAINE N.P.

After breakfast explore the scenery along the route to Laguna Azul, situated on the northeastern side of the park. Admire the local flora and fauna and the picturesque landscapes including the beautiful Paine Waterfall. Upon arrival at Laguna Azul, hike to a lookout point for a breathtaking view of the lagoon and the granite towers that give the park its name. Continue along the eastern side of Lago Sarmiento to the calcium formations on the shores where guanacos are seen. After a boxed lunch walk to Paso Las Corneas for views of Rio Paine, Lake Pehoe, and the Paine Massif. Return to the hotel. *Overnight at Cabañas del Paine. (BLD)*

DAY 10 - SANTIAGO

Say farewell to Torres del Paine during a final breakfast at the camp and then transfer to Punta Arenas with lunch en route. This afternoon fly to Santiago then transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight. *Overnight at Hotel Torremayor. (BLD)*

DAY 11 - DEPARTURE

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and journey to Viña del Mar and Valparaíso. Take a field trip to the local winery Viña Montes for a tour and wine tasting. Chileans have produced fine wines for over a century, although the conquistadors also planted vines. The origins of today's world class Chilean wines stem from cuttings brought over from French vineyards in the mid-19th century before their stock was decimated by disease. Chilean wines are becoming more and more popular as they continue to win prizes at prestigious international wine tasting competitions. Enjoy a farewell lunch at a local restaurant in Viña del Mar and then continue exploring the city. Later transfer to the Santiago International Airport for the evening flight to the United States. *Day room at Hotel Torremayor. (BL)*

This program can be customized.

PROGRAM PRICING

\$6,500 (20 participants + 2 leaders)

\$6,800 (10 participants + 1 leader)

Includes:

- Activities
- Accommodations
- Meals as stated in the itinerary
- Full-time local guide
- Internal flights (Buenos Aires to Ushuaia; Punta Arenas to Santiago)
- In-country transportation
- Carbon offsetting

Not included: International airfare, gratuities, travel/trip cancellation insurance, optional activities, items of a personal nature, alcoholic beverages, any applicable visa fees/departure taxes.

Rate is based on double occupancy for participants; single supplements may be available for an additional cost (limited availability). Please ask us about possible discounts for travel during March and October. Valid for travel in 2017.

THE FINE PRINT

Early check-in is based on hotel availability and is at the discretion of the hotel; participants will be able to store luggage at the hotel until their rooms become available. Early check-in can only be guaranteed by booking/paying for an additional night at the hotel. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking and no later than four months prior to departure. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are not refundable.

Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Dazzler Recoleta

Dazzler Recoleta Hotel is located in Buenos Aires' upscale Recoleta neighborhood, near green spaces, boutiques, shopping malls, and restaurants. The hotel is on the same block as the famous Paseo de La Recoleta and its many restaurants and is also around the corner from the historic Recoleta Cemetery. The Ministro Pistarini – Ezeiza International Airport (EZE) is approximately 18 miles from the hotel and the domestic airport, Jorge Newberry Airport (AEP), is only 5 miles away.

Room amenities: Desk, electric lock, safety deposit box, air conditioning, radiator heating, minibar, cable TV, telephone, bathroom with tub, Wi-Fi.

Facility amenities: Wi-Fi, breakfast buffet, massage services, laundry and dry cleaning service, fax/photocopy service.

Hotel Albatros

Hotel Albatros is located in the southernmost city in the world, and it is in close proximity to the port, shops, and restaurants. The hotel has cozy rooms, a relaxing atmosphere and also boasts its own restaurant, which offers regional flavors with fresh, local ingredients.

Room amenities: Safety box, hair dryer, minibar, TV, Wi-Fi.

Facility amenities: Restaurant, gym, spa, Jacuzzi, business center, Wi-Fi, laundry and dry cleaning service, conference rooms.

Stella Australis

Stella Australis is a cruise ship that was built in 2010 and is able to hold up to 210 passengers in its 100 comfortable, outside cabins.

Room amenities: Carpeted floors, bedside lamps, safety deposit boxes, onboard phone, small dresser, private baths with shower and hair dryer. Smoking only allowed on outer decks.

Facility amenities: Dining room, bar, lounges, panoramic deck and gift shop.

Hotel Torremayor

Hotel Torremayor is located in the Providencia neighborhood in Santiago, near stores, restaurants, and accessible public transportation. Its dedicated staff, excellent service, classic design, and spacious rooms will make you feel comfortable and refreshed during your stay.

Room amenities: Air conditioning, cable TV, Wi-Fi.

Facility amenities: Cafe, cocktail bar, conference rooms, lounge, restaurant, room service, business center, laundry service, currency exchange.



This program includes carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe.

Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/ClimateSafe.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Visit holbrooktravel.com or reach a travel consultant at 800-451-7111 or travel@holbrooktravel.com

PHOTOS BY

Australis and Laura Hare