

# CHILE & ARGENTINA

PLEASE NOTE: THIS PROGRAM HAS A STRENUOUS ACTIVITY LEVEL

## Frontiers of Patagonia: Cape Horn, Tierra del Fuego and Beyond

13 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: **OCT - MAR**

*Knife-edged Andean peaks, electric-blue fjords, teeming rookeries and vast steppes: Patagonia promises adventure on a grand scale, and you will experience it, by land and sea. Aboard the new, state-of-the-art M/V Ventus Australis, your small group will hug the coast at the bottom of the world, served by a multidisciplinary team who will explain the science and history behind the beauty. Discover the skyscraping splendor of Torres del Paine National Park, the roiling seas of Drake Passage and Cape Horn National Park, sparkling glacial lakes and old ports where whalers and adventurers sailed in the wake of Magellan and Darwin. A Chilean winery tour and time in sophisticated Buenos Aires and Santiago add color and contrast to your wilderness adventure.*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore early history and architecture at the vintage lighthouse and museum at the Torres del Paine National Park.
- Hike through Tierra del Fuego National Park in search of rare wildlife.
- Cruise in comfort aboard M/V Ventus Australis through the fjords, bays and open seas from Ushuaia to Punta Arenas.
- Sample the sophisticated pleasures of Buenos Aires, Santiago and the Chilean wine country.
- Learn about the native Yámana people and their interactions over the centuries with international missionaries, explorers and scientists.
- Visit Magdalena Island to view a colony of more than 120,000 Magellanic Penguins.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local guides
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Most meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting





TORRES DEL PAINE BY LAURA HARE

## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### DAY 1 - IN FLIGHT

Depart the 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 NH Latino. (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 dinner at the hotel restaurant. *Overnight at Los Acebos Hotel. (BLD)*

### DAY 4 - TIERRA DEL FUEGO

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 boat. 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 Ventus Australis, A Cabin. (BLD)*

### DAY 5 - CRUISING

Around the break of dawn, 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 Wulaia 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



USHUAIA BY BRUCE GOODWIN

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 Ventus Australis, A Cabin. (BLD)*

#### DAY 6 - CRUISING

Overnight continue your Patagonia glacier tour around the western end of Tierra del Fuego via the very narrow Gabriel Channel, Magdalena Channel, and Cockburn Channel. After rounding the remote Brecknock Peninsula, Ventus Australis tacks eastward and enters the Beagle Channel again. By morning you are entering Pia Fjord and boarding the Zodiacs for a shore excursion to Pia Glacier. After disembarking, take a short hike to gain a panoramic view of the spectacular glacier, which extends from the mountaintops down to the sea or a longer, much more difficult walk up a lateral moraine of the old Pia Glacier. No one knows for certain how the hulking mass of snow and ice got its feminine moniker, but one theory says it was named for Princess Maria Pia of Savoy (1847-1911), daughter of the Italian king. Making your way further west along the Beagle Channel, enter another long fjord and drop anchor near Garibaldi Glacier for another shore excursion. Garibaldi is one of only three glaciers in Patagonia gaining mass rather than staying the same or slowly shrinking. This time hike through virgin Magellanic forest to a glacial waterfall, a towering wall of ferns and moss, and spectacular viewpoints looking down on the glacier and fjord. The walk is demanding—very steep, negligible trail, rough footing—and not for everyone. For those who choose to stay onboard, your captain will point the bow toward the beautiful sky-blue Garibaldi Glacier so everyone can enjoy the panoramic view from the upper decks. *Overnight aboard M/V Ventus Australis, A Cabin. (BLD)*



#### DAY 7 - CRUISING

Early in the morning, sail through the Cockburn Channel and enter Agostini Sound. From there it is possible to see the glaciers that descend from the middle of the Darwin Mountain Range, some of them reaching the water. Then disembark and go for an easy walk around a lagoon, which was formed by the melting of the Águila Glacier. You will reach a spot right in front of that glacier with stunning views. In the afternoon, approach the Condor Glacier via Zodiac and hopefully see some of the abundant Andean Condors in the area. *Overnight aboard M/V Ventus Australis, A Cabin. (BLD)*

#### DAY 8 - TORRES DEL PAINE

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 Puerto Natales. Upon arrival, walk down the city's quaint streets. Continue another two hours to complete 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 Hotel del Paine. (BLD)*

#### DAY 9 - TORRES DEL PAINE

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 the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel del Paine. (BLD)*

#### DAY 10 - TORRES DEL PAINE

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 Hotel del Paine. (BLD)*

#### DAY 11 - SANTIAGO

Say farewell to Torres del Paine during a final breakfast at the camp and then transfer to Puerto Natales with lunch en route. This afternoon fly to Santiago then transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight. PLEASE NOTE: the location you are flying out of is based on air schedule. If Puerto Natales is not operating you will drive to Punta Arenas and then take a flight to Santiago. *Overnight at Atton Vittacura. (BLD)*

#### DAY 12 - DEPARTURE

After breakfast depart for a local winery located just outside of Santiago. Here, visit a vineyard led by a local expert and learn about the area's viticulture before enjoying a wine tasting. Chilean wines are becoming more and more popular around the world as they continue to win prizes at prestigious international wine tasting competitions. After a farewell lunch at a local restaurant, return to the hotel, followed by time at leisure to get some rest, do some last minute packing and get ready for the flight back home. The day room is available until 6 pm. Have late afternoon refreshments at the hotel before heading out to the airport to catch international flights to the U.S. *Day room at Atton Vittacura. (BL)*

#### DAY 13 - ARRIVAL

Arrive in the United States.

## LAND PRICING

**\$6,685** (15 participants + 1 leader)

**\$6,900** (10 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, internal flights, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included.

***Note: Please ask us about possible discounts for travel during March and October.***

Valid for travel in 2020.

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## THE FINE PRINT

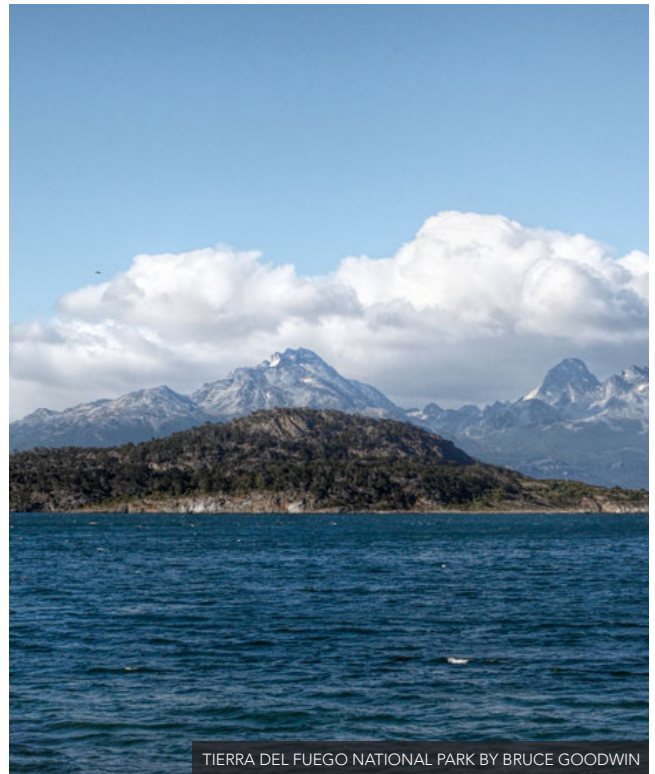
*A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure. Traveltrip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit [travelinsured.com](http://travelinsured.com). Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.*

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TIERRA DEL FUEGO NATIONAL PARK BY BRUCE GOODWIN



PIA GLACIER BY BRUCE GOODWIN

