



TORRES DEL PAINE

# CHILE & ARGENTINA

## 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 Buenos Aires and Santiago add color and contrast to your wilderness adventure.*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike the trails at Tierra del Fuego National Park, enjoying breathtaking scenery near the continent’s southernmost tip.
- Cruise in comfort aboard *M/V Ventus Australis* through the fjords, bays and open seas from Ushuaia to Punta Arenas.
- Marvel at Torres del Paine’s dramatic lakes, glaciers, and waterfalls, as well as the distinctive granite peaks for which the park is named.
- 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



M/V VENTUS AUSTRALIS





LAGO SARMIENTO WITH GUANACO

## 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 pay a visit to Teatro Colón, a world-class center for opera, ballet, and classical music since 1908. The current seven-story 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 725 Continental. (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. Snacks will be provided during the flight. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel with time to freshen up. This evening have dinner at the hotel restaurant. *Overnight at Cilene del Faro Suites & Spa. (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 the windswept island of Cape Horn (Cabo de Hornos). Discovered in 1616 during a Dutch maritime expedition, Cape Horn is a 1,394-foot-high promontory overlooking the turbulent waters of the Drake Passage. For many years this 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 Stella Maris Chapel and Cape Horn Monument, which pays tribute to the sailors who died navigating the challenging waters of the cape. Sail back across Nassau Bay and 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,



FORESTS OVER WULAIA BAY BY AUSTRALIS



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. Learn about the Yámana people and local European missionaries on a visit to the *Australis*-sponsored museum in the old radio station, then set out on a hike to ascend the wooded mountain behind the bay. There are three different trails to choose from, with increasing degrees of difficulty. On each of the hikes, you'll pass 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 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, you have the choice of two hikes: one is a short hike to gain a panoramic view of the spectacular glacier; the second option a longer, much more difficult walk up a lateral moraine of the old Pia Glacier. After reboarding *Australis*, make your way further west along the Beagle Channel and drop anchor near Garibaldi Glacier for another shore excursion. Garibaldi is one of only three glaciers in Patagonia that are actually gaining mass. 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—on a very steep, narrow 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 here it is possible to see the glaciers that descend from the Darwin Mountain Range, some of them reaching the water. Disembark and go for an easy walk around a lagoon that 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. 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 in 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, say goodbye to the *Australis* and disembark at Punta Arenas around 11:30 am. Have a quick look at this traditional Patagonian city and then begin the transfer to Torres del Paine with boxed lunch along the way, while admiring Patagonia's breathtaking vistas, snow peaked mountains, and rolling plains dotted with guanacos. Arrive at the hotel 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, horn-like granite spires. Walk along the shores of stunning Lake Pehoe and visit 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. Return to the vehicle and 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 for dinner. *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 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 can be seen. After a boxed lunch, stop at Rio Pipo and 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 and a 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. Continue to Puerto Natales and this afternoon fly to Santiago then transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight. *Please note:* The location we are flying out of is based on air schedule. If Puerto Natales is not operating we will drive to Punta Arenas and then take a flight to Santiago. *Overnight at Atton Vittacura. (BLD)*



MAGELLANIC PENGUINS

## DAY 12 - DEPARTURE

After breakfast depart for a local winery just outside of Santiago. Here, visit a local vineyard with a local expert to learn about the local viniculture and enjoy wine tasting. Chilean wines are increasingly popular around the world as they continue to win prizes at prestigious international competitions. After farewell lunch at a local restaurant, return to the hotel, followed by time at leisure to rest and get ready for the flight back home. The dayroom is available until 6:00 pm. Late afternoon refreshments are available at the hotel before you head to the airport for international flights back 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 2021.

## TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

## THE FINE PRINT

*A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Non-refundable final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure.*



ACTIVITY LEVEL

3

MODERATE

## WHAT TO EXPECT

This multifaceted adventure combines natural exploration by land and sea, with urban discovery in two iconic South American capitals. The 5-day expedition cruise portion of your journey brings you to Patagonian fjords, inlets, islands and shores for daily hikes, often with varying options for level of challenge. You'll hike flat forest paths, sandy and rocky beaches, and more intense trails through rugged glacial landscapes. Onboard your comfortable expedition ship you can expect mainly smooth sailing, but in Cape Horn National Park there can be high winds and rough seas. Many excursions use Zodiac landing craft. Other activities include visits to a penguin colony and a winery, and touring in Buenos Aires. The highest altitudes are less than 3,600 feet, in Torres del Paine National Park. Patagonia is generally cool, with average daily highs between 43°–72°F, depending on season. Summer (December–March) is the best time to travel. There are two internal flights plus overland transfers in private motorcoaches.



PIA GLACIER BY AUSTRALIS



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at [holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe](https://holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe)

