

Overseas Adventure Travel[®]

THE LEADER IN PERSONALIZED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES SINCE 1978

Your O.A.T. Adventure Travel Planning Guide[®]



Chile & Argentina: The Andes to Patagonia
2025

Overseas Adventure Travel®

347 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210

Dear Traveler,

I am thrilled that you are considering exploring the world with O.A.T. There are so many wonderful destinations to discover, and the itinerary described inside is a perfect way to fulfill a travel dream.

When you join us, you will slip seamlessly into local life as you explore off the beaten path in your small group. Like all our itineraries, this one is designed to give you an intimate understanding of your destination, not just a superficial view. You will get to know community leaders and try your hand at local trades during your *A Day in the Life* experience, share traditional fare and lively conversation during a Home-Hosted Visit, discuss the Controversial Topics impacting everyday life, and visit sites supported by Grand Circle Foundation. And if you choose to travel solo, you will enjoy all these cultural experiences at an unmatched value, with our FREE Single Supplements—just one of the reasons we continue to be the leader in solo travel.

To ensure you experience the true culture and feel supported every step of the way, we provide the services of a local Trip Experience Leader from the beginning of your adventure to the end. Along with introducing you to the history and culture of their homeland, these friendly experts will gladly help you out with any special requests to make your trip even more special. You can also rely on the seasoned team at our regional office, who are ready to help 24/7 in case any unexpected circumstances arise.

Plus, you can put your own personal stamp on your trip, like the **87% of our travelers who personalize their experience**. Perhaps you will choose to see more of your destination by adding an optional trip extension to your itinerary. You can also arrive a few days early to explore independently and get acclimated, customize your air itinerary, and more.

I hope you find this Travel Planning Guide helpful. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact one of our Travel Counselors at **1-800-955-1925**.

Warm regards,



Harriet R. Lewis
Chair
Overseas Adventure Travel

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Buenos Aires, Argentina

Chile & Argentina: The Andes to Patagonia

Small Group Adventure

Argentina: Buenos Aires, Bariloche, El Calafate | **Chile:** Puerto Varas, Chiloé Island, Punta Arenas, Torres del Paine National Park

Small groups of no more than 16 travelers, guaranteed

18 days starting from \$6,095

including international airfare

Single Supplement: **FREE**

For departure dates & prices, visit www.oattravel.com/aca2025pricing

The storied lands of Patagonia include jutting mountains, steep cliffs, winding waterways, towering volcanoes, and majestic glaciers. We'll travel across the windswept steppes where gauchos roam, discover the many wonders of Los Glaciares, spend two nights in Torres del Paine National Park, and experience the culture of Chiloé Island. We'll begin and end our adventure in Argentina's colorful capital, Buenos Aires, where we'll delve into local history and witness the passion of the tango.

IT'S INCLUDED

- 16 nights accommodation
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- All land transportation and 3 internal flights
- 35 meals—16 breakfasts, 11 lunches, and 8 dinners (including 1 Home-Hosted Dinner)
- 17 small group activities
- Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- 5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next adventure

Prices are accurate as of the date of this publishing and are subject to change.

Chile & Argentina: The Andes to Patagonia



ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAYS	DESTINATION
1	Fly to Buenos Aires, Argentina
2-3	Buenos Aires
4-6	Fly to Bariloche
7-8	Puerto Varas
9-10	Chiloé Island
11-12	Fly to Punta Arenas
13-14	Torres del Paine, Chile
15-16	El Calafate, Argentina
17	Fly to Buenos Aires
18	Return to U.S.

WHAT TO EXPECT

①②③④⑤ Moderate

Pacing: 7 locations in 17 days with one 1-night stay

Physical requirements: Travel over city streets, bumpy roads, and rugged paths; and walk and hike through backwoods on 4 treks of around 2 hours each. Three 6- to 12-hour drives, and 3 internal flights of 2-5 hours each.

Flight time: Travel time will be 11-17 hours and will most likely have one connection

View all physical requirements at www.oattravel.com/aca

CHILE & ARGENTINA: THE O.A.T. DIFFERENCE

Unbeatable Value: Travel at the lowest price and per diems in the industry.

People-to-People Experiences: Visit a local family in the Patagonian steppe, where you'll saddle up like a true *gaucho* and ride horseback before sitting down to share a meal, and see how Bariloche's land and culture blend when you meet a craft brewery owner. You'll also learn about life in Chile's bucolic Lake District during a **Home-Hosted Dinner** in Puerto Varas, and spend **A Day in the Life** of the Rilán community on Chiloé Island, where you'll meet a local artisan who will delve into Rilán customs and then help prep a *curanto*—a stew cooked in the ground.

O.A.T. Exclusives: Learn about the **Controversial Topic** of the individuals who were "disappeared" during Argentina's Dirty War during a conversation with a local. Plus, we'll discover one musician's efforts to improve the lives of vulnerable children during a visit to the COMBAS fine arts school in Puerto Varas—supported by **Grand Circle Foundation**.

PERSONALIZE YOUR ADVENTURE

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Santiago & Easter Island's Sacred Sites

PRE-TRIP: 6 nights from **\$3,695**

Iguassu Falls: Thundering Cascades of Argentina & Brazil

POST-TRIP: 4 nights from **\$1,795**

ARRIVE EARLY

We recommend that you relax after a long flight or explore more in depth before your trip. Prices shown include accommodations and private airport transfer.

- Arrive early in **Santiago** before your Easter Island pre-trip extension from **\$210** per room, per night
- Arrive early in **Buenos Aires** before your main adventure from **\$180** per room, per night

Chile & Argentina: The Andes to Patagonia

YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

BEGIN YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

6 nights in *Santiago & Easter Island's Sacred Sites*

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Day 2 Arrive in Santiago, Chile

Day 3 Explore Santiago • Winery visit

Day 4 Fly to Easter Island • Visit Orongo & Rano Kao Volcano

Day 5 Discover *moai* at Ahu Tongariki, Te Pito Kura & Anakena Beach

Day 6 Visit Ahu Akivi • Sunset at Tahai Beach

Day 7 Fly to Santiago

Day 8 Santiago • Fly to Buenos Aires

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Argentina.

Day 2 Arrive Buenos Aires, Argentina

- Destination: Buenos Aires
- Accommodations: Argenta Tower Hotel or similar

Morning: Upon arrival in the cosmopolitan capital of Argentina this morning, you will be met at the airport by an O.A.T. representative, who will assist with your transfer to our hotel. There, you'll meet your local Trip Experience Leader, as well as travelers who took the optional pre-trip extension to *Santiago & Easter Island's Sacred Sites* and those who arrived early in Buenos Aires before the main adventure.

Lunch: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend local restaurants to try.

Afternoon: You'll have a few hours free this afternoon to acquaint yourself with all the city has to offer and make discoveries on your own. Perhaps you'll step into one of Buenos Aires's famed *milongas* (dance salons) to dance the tango.

We'll meet back at our hotel prior to dinner for an informative Welcome Briefing with our Trip Experience Leader. Then, we'll slip into the swirl of activity that fills the surrounding streets, joining the flurry of pedestrian traffic, business workers, and fashionistas as we get to know our surroundings during an orientation walk. As we stroll through the heart of Buenos Aires, we'll catch a glimpse of the many options and activities available to us during our stay: sidewalk cafés ideal for people-watching over a *cortado* (coffee with milk) and *medialunas* (croissants); nearby markets, mansions, and quiet cobbled streets; and wide boulevards showcasing the city's elegant mixture of classic and modern architectural styles.

Dinner: On your own—your Trip Experience Leader can provide recommendations. With influences from French and Italian to Spanish and indigenous fare, there's no telling what you might choose to eat—though Argentina's succulent grass-fed beef might be a good place to start.

Evening: The remainder of the evening is yours to explore Buenos Aires. You may choose to relax at the hotel or venture out into the city, spotting vibrant street art, graffiti, and urban art vendors.

Day 3 Explore Buenos Aires •

Controversial Topic: The “Disappeared” of Argentina’s Dirty War • Explore La Boca • Tango lesson

- Destination: Buenos Aires
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Argenta Tower Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll depart via public transportation for a full morning of discovery, beginning with a tour led by a local guide. As we explore a few of the city's *barrios* (neighborhoods), we'll enjoy a local perspective on the rich history of Buenos Aires—an epic tale of birth and rebirth, protests and passions, suffering and triumph set against the placid landscape of the Rio de la Plata.

Next, we'll enjoy a brief visit to the Plaza de Mayo, the main square of the city, before driving to the La Boca neighborhood, the colorful streets where the Argentine tango was born. We'll observe the many street artists and dancers that work in this area, and enjoy time for independent exploration, before making our way back to our hotel.

En route, we'll stop at a historic café, where we'll hear firsthand testimony about the **Controversial Topic** of the tens of thousands of Argentines who were kidnapped, tortured, or killed between 1976 to 1983 during the country's last dictatorship, in a campaign known as the “Dirty War.” The discussion will be led by a local who sadly experienced these atrocities first-hand, as the child of one of the many “disappeared” people.

In 1976, the Argentine military overthrew the democratically-elected government in a coup, and put in place a dictatorship led by Lieutenant General Jorge Rafael Videla, Admiral Emilio Eduardo Massera, and Brigadier-General Orlando Ramón Agosti. This was part of a series of political coups called Operation Condor, a campaign notoriously sponsored by the United States government to combat the spread of communism. The newly created dictatorship wasted no time searching for anyone they considered to be a dissenter, from political rivals to average citizens suspected of being aligned with leftist, socialist, or social justice movements. Thus began the “Dirty War,” a time of terror when the people of Argentina lived in fear that a loved one—or even themselves—could be taken away at any moment, for any perceived reason.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations. You might like to try *choripan*, beef or pork sausage (traditionally *chorizo*) served on a roll and usually accompanied by a *chimichurri* (parsley, garlic, olive oil, oregano, and red wine vinegar) sauce.

Afternoon: The afternoon is yours to explore Buenos Aires independently. If this day falls on a weekend, perhaps you'll head to the San Telmo antique and artisan market (open only on Sundays) to browse the boutiques and market stands, and revel in the bohemian vibe of the surrounding neighborhood. Or, you

may take in some culture at the *Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires*, better known as MALBA, which contains pieces by such noteworthy Latin American artists as Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo.

Prior to dinner, we'll regroup at the hotel and put on our dancing shoes for a tango lesson. Our two instructors are also professional dancing partners, and will first perform for us. Then they will turn their attentions to our group and teach us some basic steps of this nationally beloved, passionate dance.

Dinner: We'll toast to the discoveries ahead during a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant, featuring regional Argentine fare.

Evening: After returning to the hotel, the remainder of the evening is yours to relax or perhaps enjoy a nightcap at the hotel bar.

Day 4 Buenos Aires • Paraná Delta tour

- Destination: Buenos Aires
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Argenta Tower Hotel

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Our day's discoveries begin at Recoleta Cemetery, the final resting place of Eva Perón, the country's beloved former First Lady and an outspoken advocate for workers' rights.

Then, we'll depart the cemetery by bus for the Paraná Delta, an exotic landscape just half an hour from the city that seems a million miles away. Traditional houses on stilts (*pilotes*) are surrounded by lush subtropical vegetation and built on islands that are separated by a twisting maze of waterways. This scenic area is one of Latin America's most unique environments, and we'll embark on a boat ride to witness it up close.

Lunch: Included at a local restaurant in Buenos Aires.

Afternoon: Yours to do as you please. Your Trip Experience Leader would be happy to offer suggestions.

Dinner: On your own. Perhaps you'll try some Porteño-style pizza. Argentina was settled largely by Italian immigrants; over time, Argentinian pizza has developed its own unique flavor—with a thicker crust and lots of cheese.

Evening: Continue pursuing your own interests this evening. Or, return to your hotel early to begin preparing for tomorrow's flight to Bariloche.

Day 5 Fly to Bariloche

- Destination: Bariloche
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Cacique Inacayal Hotel or similar

Activity note: Today, we'll spend about six hours traveling from Buenos Aires to Bariloche. Travel time includes overland transfers and a 2-hour flight.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Following breakfast, we'll drive the airport to catch our flight to Bariloche.

Lunch: On your own. You may wish to pick something up in the airport to enjoy during the flight.

Afternoon: As we fly, we can gaze out the windows at the peaks that surround this lakeside city nestled in the foothills of the Andes. Set along the banks of the 40-mile-long Lake Nahuel Huapi, San Carlos de Bariloche—as the city is more formally known—is the gateway to Patagonia's Lake District, and has a distinctly alpine flavor indicative of its strong Central European

influence. This is most apparent in the wood and stone architecture of the city center, which—along with its status as an international skiing destination—helps give Bariloche the nickname “Little Switzerland.”

After arriving in Bariloche and checking into our hotel, you have the freedom to explore independently. Late this afternoon, we’ll drive by bus downtown, where our Trip Experience Leader will lead an orientation walk to acquaint us with the area.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend one of the city’s many restaurants. While beef reigns supreme in Argentina, salmon and trout are plentiful in Patagonian lakes and rivers, and are popular dishes served fresh or smoked with a variety of sauces.

Evening: The evening is yours to continue your independent discoveries of Bariloche. Perhaps you’ll have a drink at one of the city’s many microbreweries or pubs.

Day 6 Explore Bariloche • Hike Brazo Tristeza • Craft brewery visit

- Destination: Bariloche
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Cacique Inacayal Hotel or similar

Activity Note: Today’s excursion will include a hike lasting approximately 2 hours through a forested area.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We’ll drive to Campanario Hill this morning, where we’ll enjoy a chairlift ride up this steep peak, climbing high above the tree line for a panoramic view of Patagonia’s scenery. Then, we’ll take the chairlift back down and make our way to Brazo Tristeza, a scenic area located along a shimmering

lake. Here we’ll hike for nearly 2 hours, taking in views of the deep green foliage and stark mountains mirrored in the azure water along the way.

Following our hike, we’ll quench our thirst at a family-owned craft brewery. Here, we’ll witness how Bariloche’s land and culture come together when we see how locally grown ingredients are used to brew beer. Considering the strong German influence in Bariloche, it’s no surprise that locals are experts at transforming their region’s fresh hops, barley, and pristine water into a variety of beers and ales using artisanal methods passed down from generation to generation. The owner and his father will walk us through the brewing process.

Lunch: We’ll enjoy lunch at the brewery, including a sampling of the brewery’s libations.

Afternoon: We’ll make our way back to our hotel following lunch, stopping along the way for a panoramic view of the Patagonian landscape. The balance of the afternoon is yours for independent exploration. Check with your Trip Experience Leader for activity suggestions.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: On your own to make discoveries around this lakeside city. Perhaps you’ll have a nightcap at the hotel bar, taking in the scenic views of the surrounding region where water, mountains, and forests all meet.

Day 7 Bariloche • Horseback ride and family lunch on the Patagonian steppe • Optional Limay River float

- Destination: Bariloche
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Cacique Inacayal Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Following breakfast, we'll head out to the Patagonian steppe to visit a local family. Thanks to our small group size, we'll have a chance to make personal connections with members of the family in their home before mounting up for a horseback ride—the most traditional way to explore this part of the world. After our ride concludes, we'll discover more of the Patagonian steppe on our own two feet.

Lunch: We'll savor a barbecue at the family ranch. As we dine, we'll learn about the family and their history in Argentina. The family's ancestors re-located to Patagonia from Germany in the 1800s—just one of many European families who were given land by the Argentine government as a reward for helping establish the border between Argentina and Chile.

Afternoon: Enjoy time for independent exploration in Bariloche. Or, you may choose to take an optional excursion to the Limay River, where we'll float by raft for a close look at the landscapes of the northern Patagonian steppe. A popular site for fly-fishing, this river is home to an abundance of large rainbow and brown trout.

Dinner: On your own. Perhaps you'll try one of Bariloche's regional specialties, such as *jabali* (wild boar), at a local restaurant. Travelers taking the optional tour will enjoy a boxed lunch under a covered *quincho* (hut) near the river.

Evening: We'll return to the hotel late this evening. You are free to relax or explore Bariloche independently.

Day 8 Overland to Puerto Varas, Chile

- Destination: Puerto Varas, Chile
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Radisson Puerto Varas or similar

Activity Note: Today, we'll travel 8 to 10 hours overland into Chile. As we cross the border from Argentina into Chile, we will have our passports stamped, which can take up to a few hours, depending on how many people are crossing that day. Along the way, we will stop for 1.5 hours to have lunch and change buses.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll bid farewell to Bariloche and make our overland transfer to picturesque Puerto Varas, located deep within Chile's Lake District. As our bus crosses the Andes Mountains, we'll take in views of snowcapped peaks, jagged rock towers, and freshwater lakes. We should arrive at the border just prior to lunch. Be sure to have your passport ready.

Lunch: We'll stop at a local restaurant in Moncopulli, Chile for lunch.

Afternoon: Our transfer to Puerto Varas continues after lunch. Upon arrival late this afternoon, you'll have free time to relax in our hotel or explore our new surroundings. Perhaps you'll take some time to discover the town's German heritage juxtaposed with its dramatic, volcanic landscape.

Dinner: On your own—your Trip Experience Leader can provide recommendations for local restaurants. You may want to try *Caldillo de Congrio*, a traditional fish stew.

Evening: The remainder of the evening is yours to explore. You may choose to have a nightcap at a local bar along the *costanera* (scenic trail) which boasts views of Lago Llanquihue.

Day 9 Puerto Varas • Grand Circle Foundation visit: COMBAS fine arts school • Home-Hosted Dinner • Explore Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park

- Destination: Puerto Varas
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Radisson Puerto Varas or similar

Activity Note: Today's Grand Circle Foundation site visit to the COMBAS music school is subject to availability. Check with your Trip Experience Leader for more details.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: After breakfast, we'll drive to Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park, a protected natural area that has been shaped by ancient glaciers and volcanic eruptions. In the distant eastern limits of the park, the Osorno Volcano's snowcapped cone towers over Lake Llanquihue. The Mapuche Indians call this area the meeting ground between man and God, and with its mirror-like lakes, cascading falls, and volcanic mountains, it remains one of Chile's most popular regions to visit.

Our discoveries here include a walk along the Petrohue Rapids, where chutes of water flow over ancient lava that has been polished by silt over the centuries into a bed of smooth stone.

Lunch: Enjoy lunch on your own after we return to Puerto Varas. Your Trip Experience Leader would be happy to provide restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: Enjoy a few hours to spend as you please. Perhaps you'll rent a bike and ride along the *ciclovia* (bike lane) that circles Lake Llanquihue.

Late this afternoon, we'll make our way to COMBAS (Conservatorio de Musica y Bellas Artes del Sur), a fine arts school and a **new Grand Circle Foundation Site**.

Grand Circle Foundation

Conservatorio de Musica y Bellas Artes del Sur
Partner since: **2021**

Upon arrival, we'll be greeted by the school's founder or one of its instructors, who will detail the school's mission and lead us on a tour of the facility.

Founded in 2018, COMBAS seeks to promote artistic education in southern Chile by offering classes in music, dance, and visual and performing arts to adults and children. While most lessons at COMBAS are paid for by the students, the organization also maintains a Children's Orchestra, which provides music lessons to at-risk children free of charge.

In its first year of operation, the orchestra project provided scholarships (including training, transportation, and food) to 49 vulnerable children. These students, who range in age from 6 to 14 years old, all come from low-income families and often face difficulties at home, including domestic violence and substance abuse. The goal of the project is to provide these students with a safe environment and new skills that will prevent them from turning to drugs and violence.

As we tour the facility, we'll see some of the children practicing their instruments and have the opportunity to interact with them, as well as their teachers. You might even try your hand at playing one of the instruments yourself.

Because the school is relatively new, it has received very little support beyond a few one-time donations of musical instruments. The teachers' salaries, plus all maintenance costs, must be covered by the tuition collected

from paid lessons. As we'll hear, it's been difficult for COMBAS to make ends meet. Grand Circle Foundation is the organization's first long-term partner, aiming to fund much needed renovations, including ceiling repairs, installing a heating system to combat the brutal cold, and painting the exterior of the building.

After our visit concludes, we'll make our way to local families' homes for our **Home-Hosted Dinner**. To facilitate a more intimate experience, we'll be split into smaller groups for this special meal.

Dinner: Upon arrival at the family's home, we'll be greeted by our hosts and invited into the kitchen to prepare *empanadas*, a traditional stuffed dumpling that's very popular in this region of Chile. As the *empanadas* bake, our hosts will show us around the property before we get to know one another over *Pisco Sours* (a citrus cocktail made with Pisco, a brandy unique to Chile and Peru).

The families we dine with in Puerto Varas are varied—some are couples with pets, others have children, while others are comprised of several generations. After enjoying our *empanadas*, the main courses begin. As we dine on homemade dishes like *Pastel de Choclo* (corn stew) and sip Chilean wine, we'll learn more about what life is like in Puerto Varas.

Before saying *hasta luego* (see you later) to our hosts, we'll enjoy a sweet treat: perhaps cake with locally grown fruits like *murta* (Chilean guava berry) or *ruibarbo* (rhubarb).

Evening: The evening is yours to continue making independent discoveries. If you are a chocolate lover, you may wish to seek out one of the artisanal chocolate shops around Puerto Varas.

Day 10 Chiloé Island • Explore Castro

- Destination: Chiloé Island
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Enjoy Chiloé Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll drive to the ferry terminal this morning to make our way to our next destination: Chiloé Island. This windswept island off Chile's coast is known for its rugged landscape and seafaring people. Our hotel is located in the island's capital city of Castro, which brims with color and boasts expansive coastlines.

Lunch: On your own in Castro. Your Trip Experience Leader can suggest a restaurant.

Afternoon: We'll check in to our hotel after lunch, and you'll enjoy time to explore the neighborhood independently.

Later, we'll regroup and drive to nearby Nercon Church, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a prime example of Chilota architecture. Then, we'll return to Castro to visit the Church of San Francisco, Castro's main church and a UNESCO World Heritage Site sitting on the city's main square. Both churches were established in the 17th century by Jesuit missionaries and represent the melding of Spanish Catholicism with indigenous culture.

Our discoveries conclude with a walk to view Castro's iconic *palafitos*. These vibrantly-hued homes balance on stilts and are perhaps Castro's most iconic landmark.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: The remainder of the evening is yours. You may retire to your room to rest or perhaps you'll explore the local nightlife in Castro.

Day 11 Castro • *A Day in the Life* of the Rilan community

- Destination: Chiloé Island
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Enjoy Chiloé Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll enjoy a unique perspective on life in Chiloé during our *A Day in the Life* experience of the Rilan community. We'll drive from Castro to the community's town square, where we'll be greeted by our host for the day. He or she will lead us on a short walk around town, pausing to interact with any locals we come across. As a pillar of the Rilan community, our host offers a unique perspective on the joys and challenges of living in this remote part of Chile.

Our first stop will be to the Church of Rilan, which has been designated a National Monument of Chile and one of Chiloé's sixteen UNESCO Heritage Site churches. Like the other churches on the island, the Church of Rilan features unique wooden architecture that blends European and Latin American styles. It also boasts a bright blue roof. Then, we'll continue our tour, pausing to visit a local store or perhaps the town fire station.

After our tour concludes, our host will invite us into his or her home on a nearby farm to meet the family and help with chores. Depending on the season, we might pitch in to plant or harvest potatoes, harvest apples from the orchard, or pick herbs which are used for teas and infusions. Afterwards, we'll join our host family under the *fogon*—a covered outdoor structure to protect from Chiloé's frequently rainy weather—for a chat. Over a mug of traditional *mate* or herbal tea, we'll learn about local customs and about the changes that threaten Rilan and Chiloé's traditional ways

of life. Of particular concern is the large-scale salmon farming that has cropped up in the area. Chile is the second-largest producer of salmon in the world, but salmon are not native to Chile; without natural predators, the local salmon population has exploded, wiping out native species, rupturing the delicate ecosystem and contaminating the ocean floors with their food and droppings.

Next, we'll help our hosts prepare lunch, a traditional meal called a *curanto*. *Curanto* is a stew consisting of typical local fare—shellfish, meat, potatoes, and vegetables—cooked inside a pot. As the meal is cooking, we'll help prepare a few popular local snacks, like *milcaos* (potato pancakes), *chochoca* (potato dough cooked over the fire on a stick), and *chapalele* (potato dumplings). After preparing the *curanto* and allowing our food to cook, we'll then take a brief tour of our hosts' property, giving us an even deeper glimpse into their daily routine.

Lunch: We'll enjoy the flavor of the local specialties we helped to make when we sit down to lunch with our hosts.

As we share our meal, we might discuss the effect a new bridge project might have on the lifestyles of Chiloé. The goal of the project is to facilitate travel between the island and the mainland. However, many islanders worry the increased traffic will increase pollution and alter long-cherished island traditions.

Afternoon: Before bidding our hosts farewell, we'll have time for one more activity: *rayuela*. This traditional Chilean game is similar to bocce or horseshoes: a player throws a *tejo* (or small disk) and tries to land it within a certain target. Our hosts will be happy to show us how to play.

After returning to Castro late this afternoon, the balance of the day is yours.

Dinner: On your own. Perhaps you'll seek out some of the island's excellent seafood served along Castro's waterfront.

Evening: The evening is yours to continue your independent discoveries or relax at the hotel. Perhaps you'll take advantage of some of the hotel's amenities.

Day 12 Puñihuil Wildlife Reserve • Fly to Punta Arenas

- Destination: Punta Arenas
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Jose Nogueira Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: With our luggage in tow, we'll drive to the Puñihuil Wildlife Reserve for our final morning in Chiloé. There, we'll board small boats if the weather permits and sail out to observe the wildlife who call this reserve home. We'll search for Humboldt and Magellanic penguins as well as sea otters, sea lions, seals, and a variety of marine birds, perhaps chatting with local fishermen about the menagerie around us.

Lunch: At a local restaurant in Puñihuil.

Afternoon: After lunch, we'll drive to Puerto Montt Airport for our flight to Punta Arenas, arriving late this afternoon.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner on your own in Punta Arenas; locals recommend seeking out the seasonal *centolla* (king crab) or trying a local restaurant owned by descendants of this area's original Croatian immigrants. Your Trip Experience Leader can provide recommendations based on your preferences.

Evening: The evening is yours to make independent discoveries.

Day 13 Overland to Torres del Paine National Park • Hike near Lago Grey

- Destination: Torres del Paine
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel Lago Grey or similar

Activity Note: We'll be traveling overland around six hours by bus from Punta Arenas to Torres del Paine, with stops along the way.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll begin our overland journey to Torres del Paine, widely considered to be South America's finest and most beautiful national park—and one of the most remote places in the world. We'll spend two nights here, giving us time to hike winding trails over rippling currents; witness the ostrich-like rhea (known locally as *nandu*), condor, fox, and other wildlife protected by this UNESCO Biosphere Reserve site; and take in the landscapes of rugged mountains rising over mirror-smooth lakes and fields.

Lunch: We'll stop at a scenic viewpoint for a boxed lunch, which you can enjoy at your leisure.

Afternoon: Our journey to Torres del Paine continues after lunch. We'll arrive at our lodge, located in the heart of the park, around mid-afternoon.

After settling in, we'll embark on our first elective hike led by our Trip Experience Leader and a local guide along the shores of Lago Grey, where blue icebergs rest against sandy beaches and the Grey Glacier stretches into the distance through the towering peaks of the surrounding mountains. As an experienced naturalist, our Trip Experience Leader will help to identify the region's varied flora and fauna. Herds of *guanaco* make their homes along the trail's path, so be sure to keep your eyes peeled for

these llama-like creatures. Our hike will last around two hours, after which point we'll head back to our hotel.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: Yours to relax or have a nightcap at the hotel restaurant.

Day 14 Explore Torres del Paine National Park

- Destination: Torres del Paine
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel Lago Grey or similar

Activity Note: Today will be an active day featuring two hikes over uneven trails lasting up to five hours total. Travelers who do not wish to participate in the hikes may have the day at leisure.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll continue exploring Torres del Paine with our Trip Experience Leader today with a duo of included hikes. Our first hike takes us to Salto Grande, a rushing waterfall set between Lago Nordenskjold and Lago Pehoe. We'll witness the awesome power of the falls and have a chance to spot some of the indigenous wildlife—like the *guanacos* that feed on the brush and grasses by the riverbank.

Lunch: We'll take a break from hiking to enjoy a boxed lunch while taking in our scenic surroundings.

Afternoon: Our second hike will take us through undulating plains and beneath the towering Paine Massif, one of the most recognizable mountain profiles in the world.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: The remainder of the evening is yours to relax or make independent explorations. Your Trip Experience Leader can provide recommendations.

Day 15 Overland to El Calafate, Argentina

- Destination: El Calafate
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Kau Yatun Hotel or similar

Activity Note: We will travel overland by bus around ten hours from Torres del Paine to El Calafate, with sightseeing stops along the way. Our passports will be checked as we cross the border from Chile to Argentina. This process can take up to a few hours, depending on the number of people crossing the border.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll depart Torres del Paine National Park this morning, with a final stop for sightseeing and photo opportunities en route. We'll pass by the soaring mountains, granite towers, and blue glaciers that make this region a true natural wonderland.

Lunch: At a local restaurant en route to El Calafate.

Afternoon: We cross the border from Chile back into Argentina early this afternoon. Once we are in Argentina, we'll change buses and continue our drive to El Calafate, arriving late this afternoon.

Dinner: At our hotel's restaurant.

Evening: The remainder of the evening is yours to relax or have a nightcap in the hotel bar.

Day 16 El Calafate • Ranch visit

- Destination: El Calafate
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Kau Yatun Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Following breakfast, we'll make our way to a Patagonian ranch. Upon arrival, we'll be received by the ranchers and have the opportunity to hear about their *gaucho* lifestyle, including their methods of using dogs to herd sheep and cattle, the important role horses play on the farm, and the different types of saddles that are used to ride horses. This is also a good opportunity to ask our hosts about their personal experience.

Lunch: Our small group will savor a a tasty, barbecue lamb meal at the ranch.

Afternoon: After returning to our hotel, the balance of the day is yours to make independent explorations. You may choose to stroll along the busy pier to watch ships arriving to and departing from the remote fjords or visit the artisan shops off the main square that sell handmade woolen crafts and locally-produced chocolates.

Dinner: On your own.

Evening: The evening is yours to relax or choose to have a nightcap with fellow travelers at the hotel bar.

Day 17 Explore Los Glaciares National Park

- Destination: El Calafate
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Kau Yatun Hotel or similar

Activity Note: Today we will travel overland by bus around two hours to reach Los Glaciares National Park, typically with a stop along the way for observing wildlife.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We head out on a full-day excursion to Los Glaciares National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Los Glaciares is the second-largest national park in Argentina and comprises more than 1,700 square miles and nearly 50 large glaciers. These glaciers are fed by a giant ice cap (the largest continental ice extension after Antarctica and Greenland) that begins in the Andes and occupies well over a third of the park's total area.

During our explorations, we'll discover the Perito Moreno Glacier, which towers nearly 200 feet above Lake Argentino. It is named after Francisco Moreno, a 19th-century Argentinean explorer who helped resolve his country's border dispute with neighboring Chile. The constant, cyclical movement of Perito Moreno's ice mass often forces the glacier to "calve"—an iceberg "birthing" process in which smaller chunks of ice fracture and break off from the glacier to thunderous accompaniment. This spectacle can occur at any time, so we'll keep our fingers crossed that we'll be lucky enough to witness this phenomenon. Surrounding the glacier are wooden platforms with railings, providing you with various angles at which to view the glacier.

Lunch: Enjoy a boxed lunch in the park, among the natural splendor of Perito Moreno.

Afternoon: We'll return to El Calafate, and the balance of the day is yours. Before dinner, we'll regroup for a Farewell Briefing to reminisce over our adventure, and prepare for our journey home.

Dinner: We'll celebrate our discoveries over a Farewell Dinner.

Evening: The evening is yours to retire to your room, or perhaps you'll head out to a local pub or cocktail bar for a final toast to Patagonia.

Day 18 Fly to Buenos Aires • Return to U.S.

- Destination: Buenos Aires
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Argenta Tower Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: After taking part in a Farewell Briefing with your Trip Experience Leader, we'll head to the airport for our flight to Buenos Aires.

Lunch: On your own. You may choose to grab something at the airport to eat during your flight.

Afternoon: Upon arrival in the Argentine capital in the mid-afternoon, we'll transfer to our hotel. You'll have a few hours to relax in a dayroom before heading to the airport for your flight home.

If you are taking the *Iguassu Falls: Thundering Cascades of Argentina & Brazil* post-trip extension, you'll have the rest of the day free and remain in Buenos Aires tonight.

END YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

4 nights in *Iguassu Falls: Thundering Cascades of Argentina & Brazil*

Day 1 Buenos Aires

Day 2 Fly to Iguassu • Discover the Falls in Brazil

Day 3 Explore the Jungle • Visit an indigenous community

Day 4 Experience Iguassu Falls in Argentina • Optional *Great Adventure* tour

Day 5 Fly to Buenos Aires • Return to U.S.

OPTIONAL TOURS

During your trip you will be able to book optional tours directly with your Trip Experience Leader. He or she will ask you to confirm the payment for these tours by filling out a payment form. Optional tours can only be purchased with a credit or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards. We also accept Visa and MasterCard debit cards, but it must be a debit card that allows you to sign for purchases.

In order to correctly process these charges, there can be a delay of 2–3 months from the date of your return for the charges to be posted to your account. Therefore we ask that you use a card that will not expire in the 2–3 months following your return.

Please note: Optional tour prices are listed in U.S. dollar estimates determined at the time of publication and are subject to change. Optional tours may vary.

Limay River Float

(Day 7 \$90 per person)

Experience the natural splendor of northern Patagonia from a different point of view by floating along Bariloche's most scenic river. Flowing from Lake Nahuel Huapi, the tranquil Limay River provides our small group with a perfect path along which to capture up-close views of the pristine wilderness and wildlife of the steppe from the comfort of our raft. Dinner is included for those who join this optional tour.

PRE-TRIP

Santiago & Easter Island's Sacred Sites

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » 6 nights accommodation
- » Roundtrip airfare between Santiago and Easter Island and airfare from Santiago to Buenos Aires
- » 12 meals—6 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 3 dinners
- » 5 small group activities
- » Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- » Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- » All transfers

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Explore historic Santiago, then venture to Easter Island to discover its rich Polynesian heritage, dramatic volcanoes, brilliant beaches, and welcoming people. Above all, ponder the mystery of the nearly 900 large stone heads—called moai—that stand silently in clusters scattered across the island.

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Depart the U.S. this evening for an overnight flight to Chile.

Day 2 Arrive in Santiago, Chile

- Destination: Santiago
- Included Meals: Dinner
- Accommodations: InterContinental Santiago or similar

Morning: You'll arrive in Santiago this morning. An O.A.T. representative will meet you at the airport and assist with your transfer to your hotel. Upon arrival, check in and have time to relax before this afternoon's activities.

Lunch: On your own—your Trip Experience Leader can make recommendations. You may want to try *humitas*, similar to Mexican *tamales*.

Afternoon: Join an orientation walk led by your Trip Experience Leader of the area around the hotel. Following our walk, you have the remainder of the afternoon to explore on your own.

Dinner: Our group will gather at the hotel for our first dinner together. This is when you'll meet travelers who arrived early in Santiago before their pre-trip extension.

Evening: The evening is yours to make discoveries in Santiago. Perhaps you'll seek out some of the region's famed wine at one of the city's numerous wine bars.

Day 3 Explore Santiago • Winery visit

- Destination: Santiago
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: InterContinental Santiago or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll begin today with a short drive to La Moneda Government Palace, a gleaming, Italianate structure that houses several government ministries and also serves at the seat of Chile's president. This UNESCO World Heritage Site has been a symbol of the Chilean government since 1845, and is an ideal place for us to discuss Chile's tumultuous political history and modern successes.

After our visit, we'll drive to Cousiño Macul, an expansive winery located on the outskirts of Santiago. Chile is the seventh largest wine producer in the world, and its Cabernet Sauvignons and Merlots are particularly renowned. Upon arrival at the winery, we'll learn more about Chilean viticulture and have a chance to sample a few varietals.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: We'll return to our hotel where the remainder of the afternoon is free for your own discoveries.

Dinner: On your own. You might choose to dine at one of the establishments your Trip Experience Leader pointed out during yesterday's orientation walk.

Evening: The evening is yours to discover Santiago's nightlife or retire to your room to rest before tomorrow's discoveries.

Day 4 Fly to Easter Island • Visit Orongo & Rano Kao Volcano

- Destination: Easter Island
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Taha Tai Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At a local restaurant.

Morning: We'll transfer to the airport early this morning and fly across the southeastern Pacific Ocean to Easter Island, so named by a Dutch sailor who landed on the island on Easter

Sunday, 1722. Today, the island—also known as Rapa Nui—is home to around 5,000 people, including 3,000 Rapa Nuians, the Polynesian people whose ancestors were responsible for carving the *moai*—giant stone sculptures that grace the island's tropical landscape. These immense sculptures—and the isolated culture that created them—have earned Rapa Nui a place in the imaginations of people the world over, as well as its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After we land on Easter Island, we'll drive to our hotel to check in.

Lunch: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to recommend a local spot. Seafood options are plentiful; perhaps you'll try *tunu ahí*, fresh fish cooked on hot stones.

Afternoon: We'll set out for one of the most scenic spots on the island. At Rano Kao Volcano, we'll view the freshwater lake that has formed in the crater's depths and explore Orongo's ceremonial center on the crater's edge. This place was one of the principal sites of the birdman cult, which is immortalized by the stone carvings of birdmen into rock.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: The remainder of the evening is yours to relax or make independent discoveries. Perhaps you'll enjoy a cocktail at the hotel's lounge with fellow travelers.

Day 5 Discover *moai* at Ahu Tongariki, Te Pito Kura & Anakena Beach

- Destination: Easter Island
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Taha Tai Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today we set out for a full-day tour of the island led by our Trip Experience Leader and a local guide. We'll set out to discover the island's famed *moai*, whose origin and meaning have sparked great speculation over the centuries. Nearly 900 of these monolithic statues have been found on the island, and it is estimated that each one took five or six men one year to carve with hand-held tools.

We'll follow the footsteps of an ancient civilization to various *ahus*—sacred sites where several *moai* stand. At Ahu Vaihu, we'll spend some time viewing the *moai* in an unrestored state, before we continue to Ahu Tongariki's collection of 15 restored *moai* carved from the quarries of nearby Rano Raraku Volcano. We'll explore the area for around three hours.

Lunch: We'll stop to enjoy a boxed lunch after visiting the *moai*.

Afternoon: Then, we'll continue the tour to discover Te Pito Kura, which today lies on the ground, but—at 32 feet in length—is considered the largest *moai* ever erected on an *ahu*. After our tour, we'll explore Anakena Beach, where the first Polynesian settlers are believed to have landed and where we'll find six more *moai*.

Then, you'll have the remainder of the afternoon on your own.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: Following our dinner together, the remainder of the evening is yours to make independent discoveries or relax at the hotel.

Day 6 Visit Ahu Akivi • Sunset at Tahai Beach

- Destination: Easter Island
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Taha Tai Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: You'll have some free time this morning to make your own discoveries around the island.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Then we'll drive to Ahu Akivi, one of the only inland *ahus* on the island, whose seven *moai* stand in a line facing the ocean and (during spring and autumn) the sunset. This evening, we'll enjoy watching the sunset ourselves over the *moai* at Tahai Beach before returning to our hotel.

Dinner: On your own—your Trip Experience Leader can recommend local restaurants to try. Perhaps you'll take the opportunity to try Easter Island's *ceviche*, a popular staple made with raw fish and coconut milk.

Evening: You may retire to your room to relax or enjoy your final night on Easter Island making independent discoveries.

Day 7 Fly to Santiago

- Destination: Santiago
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Crowne Plaza Santiago or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: You'll have some free time to enjoy your final morning on Easter Island. Perhaps you'll visit the Parque Nacional Rapa Nui on the western side of the island. Like an open-air museum, this park features archaeological sites and scenic hikes.

Lunch: On your own. You may want to try tuna patties, Easter Island–style *empanadas* filled with tuna, cheese, and tomato.

Afternoon: We'll drive to the airport for our flight back to Santiago.

Dinner: Included on the flight.

Evening: When we land, we'll drive to our hotel to check in and get some rest before our flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina tomorrow.

Day 8 Santiago • Fly to Buenos Aires

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires to begin our *Chile & Argentina: The Andes to Patagonia* adventure.

POST-TRIP

Iguassu Falls: Thundering Cascades of Argentina & Brazil

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » 4 nights accommodation
- » Roundtrip airfare between Buenos Aires and Iguassu
- » 7 meals—4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 2 dinners
- » 3 small group activities
- » Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- » Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- » All transfers

POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Experience the roaring and rushing cascades of Iguassu Falls. Cross into Brazil for a panoramic view, then witness Iguassu on the Argentinean side—so close that a cool mist washes over you.

Day 1 Buenos Aires

- Destination: Buenos Aires
- Accommodations: Argenta Tower Hotel or similar

Afternoon: After travelers on the main adventure return to the U.S., you will have the remainder of the afternoon free in Buenos Aires to absorb the sights, sounds, and culture of the city.

Dinner: On your own—your Trip Experience Leader can provide recommendations. One local dish you may want to try is *provoleta*, a grilled piece of cheese garnished with oregano, crisped at the edges, and served with toasted bread.

Evening: Yours to do as you please. You may want to spend a final evening exploring Buenos Aires, or return to your hotel to prepare for our flight to Iguassu tomorrow.

Day 2 Fly to Iguassu • Discover the Falls in Brazil

- Destination: Iguassu
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Amerian Portal del Iguazu or similar

Activity Note: Today, we'll cross the border from Argentina into Brazil where we'll have our passports stamped, which can take up to a few hours, depending on how many people are crossing.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll fly to Iguassu Falls, arriving late this morning. Located on the Argentina/Brazil border, the falls at Iguassu are among the world's most impressive sights—twice as high as Niagara Falls and 65 feet wider. We'll witness the falls from both sides during our visit, beginning on the

Brazilian side today. Upon arrival at the airport on the Argentina side of the falls, we'll make our way to the border.

Lunch: On your own upon our arrival at the entrance of the Brazilian side of Iguassu Park. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend restaurants near the entrance to the park.

Afternoon: Following lunch, we'll drive into the park, where we'll begin our walking tour led by a local guide. We'll enjoy panoramic views as we stroll along a stone path through the forest that leads to several platforms where we can observe the falls from different angles. We'll also see the unique birds and mammals that thrive in the lush national park surrounding Iguassu.

After our tour concludes, we'll return to Argentina and check in to our hotel.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: The remainder of the evening is free to make independent discoveries or relax at the hotel.

Day 3 Explore the Jungle • Visit an indigenous community

- Destination: Iguassu
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Amerian Portal del Iguazu or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Our day begins with a walk in and around the jungle led by a local guide native to a village. Exploring the jungle on foot allows us to come into intimate contact with its flora and fauna: Hear the call of tropical birds as they wing from tree to tree beneath the dense canopy, and spot brightly-colored lizards as they slither across the jungle floor.

During our excursion, we'll visit the Guaraní, a local indigenous community. We'll have the opportunity to meet with members of the group and learn about their history and culture, as well as explore the jungle with them. The Guaraní continue to live a traditional lifestyle, using medicinal herbs, planting their own crops, and producing local crafts by hand.

After our visit concludes, we'll drive to a Biocentro, a nearby environmental facility.

Lunch: Included brunch at the Biocentro, followed by a tour of the facility which includes a butterfly display and opportunities for South American reptile sightings.

Afternoon: After returning to our hotel, the remainder of the afternoon is yours to explore on your own. Perhaps you'll head into Puerto Iguassu, the town on the Argentinean side of the Falls, where you can find a number of dining options and the Mborore Museum, which houses Guaraní artifacts.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend options.

Evening: The remainder of the evening is free to continue making discoveries. You may want to head to La Ferinha market to sample some of the *picada* (snacks) from local vendors.

Day 4 Experience Iguassu Falls in Argentina • Optional *Great Adventure* tour

- Destination: Iguassu
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Amerian Portal del Iguazu or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today, we explore Iguassu Falls from the Argentinean side—where the majority of the cascades are found—soaking in up-close views of the rushing and roaring water. We'll

take a train to the *Garganta del Diablo* (Devil's Throat), where we'll walk around as the water plunges 230 feet into a roiling cauldron. From here, you can take in the views of the spray flying up to 50 feet above your head.

Lunch: On your own. Perhaps you'll try *chipa guaza* (a salty corn pie), a specialty in Iguassu.

Afternoon: Spend the afternoon at leisure among the park's many trails. On the Lower Circuit, you can board a boat bound for San Martin Island. Or, look for birds, coatis, and monkeys on an easy walk along the Green Trail.

You may want to join our optional *Great Adventure* tour, which brings together both halves of Iguassu National Park: the jungle and the waterfalls. Our tour begins with a drive through the jungle along the Sendero Yacaratía trail, which offers sweeping panoramic views. After a short ride, we arrive at the Puerto Macuco base and the floating dock where we board our motorboat for the second half of our tour. We'll cruise through the Iguassu River Canyon, passing through a few river rapids, before reaching the calm side of San Martin Island. From here, we sail on for up-close views

of two of the park's waterfalls—first to Tres Mosqueteros for a view of both the Argentinean and Brazilian sides of Iguassu, and then to the largest and most impressive waterfall, the San Martin. We'll reconvene with our fellow travelers late this afternoon to return to our hotel.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: The evening is free to relax before your return flight home in the morning or to make final explorations of Iguassu on your own.

Day 5 Fly to Buenos Aires • Return to U.S.

- Destination: U.S.
- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll catch our return flight to Buenos Aires this morning. Depending on when your next flight departs, you may have a couple of hours of free time to collect your luggage or explore Buenos Aires before transferring to the international airport for your overnight flight to the U.S.

OPTIONAL TOUR

Great Adventure

(Day 4 \$75 per person)

Explore both halves of Iguassu National Park: the jungle and the waterfalls. You'll begin by entering the jungle on the Sendero Yacaratía trail, which offers sweeping panoramic views. After a short ride, arrive at the Puerto Macuco base and the floating dock where you'll board a motorboat for the second half of your tour. Travel through the Iguassu River Canyon, passing through a few river rapids, before reaching the calm side of San Martin Island.

From here you'll sail on for up-close views of two of the park's waterfalls—first to Tres Mosqueteros for a view of both the Argentinean and Brazilian sides of Iguassu, and then to the largest and most impressive waterfall, San Martin.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Your Passport

- Must be in good condition
- Must be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S.
- Must have the required number of blank pages (details below)
- The blank pages must be labeled “Visas” at the top. Pages labeled “Amendments and Endorsements” are not acceptable

Need to Renew Your Passport?

Contact the National Passport Information Center (NPIC) at **1-877-487-2778**, or visit the U.S. Department of State’s official website at **www.travel.state.gov** for information on obtaining a new passport or renewing your existing passport. The U.S. Department of State allows for passport renewal by mail or, for applicable citizens, renewal online. We advise you review the process and requirements for online passport renewal on the official website.

You may also contact our recommended visa service company, PVS International, at **1-800-556-9990** for help with your passport.

Recommended Blank Pages

Please confirm that your passport has enough blank pages for this adventure.

- **Main trip only:** You will need 4 blank passport pages.
- **Pre-trip to Easter Island:** You will need an additional blank page, for a total of 5 passport pages.
- **Post-trip to Iguassu Falls:** You will need 2 more blank pages, for a total of 6 passport pages.
- **Both pre-trip and post-trip extension:** You will need a total of 7 passport pages.
- **Stopover in Bogota, Guayaquil, La Paz, Lima, Panama City, Quito, or Rio de Janeiro:** You will need to add an additional page to the applicable total listed above.

Visa Required

We’ll be sending you a detailed Visa Packet with instructions, application forms, and fees about 100 days prior to your departure. In the meantime, we’re providing the information below as a guideline on what to expect. This info is for U.S. citizens only. All visas and fees are subject to change.

- **Argentine and Chile:** No visas required. No visas needed for U.S. citizens for stays less than 30 days.

- **Brazil (post trip extension): Visa required.** Starting April 2025, a visa must be obtained in advance to visit Brazil.
- **Bolivia (optional stopover): Visa required.** As of February 8th, 2021, U.S. citizens are required to have a tourist visa and a Yellow Fever Vaccination certificate (or waiver) when visiting Bolivia. The visa can either be obtained in advance or upon arrival.

Traveling Without a U.S. Passport?

If you are not a U.S. citizen, or if your passport is from any country other than the U.S., it is your responsibility to check with your local consulate, embassy, or a visa services company about visa requirements. We recommend the services of PVS International, a national visa service located in Washington D.C.; they can be reached at **1-800-556-9990** or **www.pvsinternational.org**.

Traveling With a Minor?

Some governments may require certain documentation for minors to enter and depart the country or to obtain a visa (if applicable). For further detail on the required documentation, please contact your local embassy or consulate.

Migration Forms

When entering a new country, you might be given a Migration form. Keep it with you until the end of your trip, as the Migrations Authority might require it.

Travel Protection Required:

For new bookings starting 1/1/25, Overseas Adventure Travel requires all travelers purchase travel protection with Medical Evacuation coverage of at least \$200,000 and Medical Expense coverage of at least \$50,000, due to the remote nature of your adventure.

O.A.T. Travel Protection:

If you **purchase your Travel Protection Plan** through O.A.T., no further action will be needed, as the Medical Evacuation coverage and Medical Expense coverage meets these requirements.

Your Own Travel Protection:

If you purchase your own travel protection, we recommend you review the plan to ensure Medical Evacuation coverage of at least \$200,000 and Medical Expense coverage of at least \$50,000 is included. Once you confirm your plan meets the requirements, you will need to email the following information to **TravelCoverage@oattravel.com**:

- Traveler Name(s)
- Reservation Number
- Trip Protection Provider
- Policy Number

- Date of Purchase
- Copy of your Policy Documents

You can also contact our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814** to review this policy. You will be required to provide proof of coverage by 60 days prior to departure at the latest.

Emergency Photocopies of Key Documents

We recommend you carry color photocopies of key documents including the photo page of your passport plus any applicable visas, air itinerary, credit cards (front and back), and an alternative form of ID. Add emergency phone numbers like your credit card company and the number for your travel protection plan. Store copies separate from the originals.

If you plan to email this information to yourself, please keep in mind that email is not always secure; consider using password protection or encryption. Also email is not always available worldwide. As an alternative, you could load these documents onto a flash drive instead, which can do double-duty as a place to backup photos during your trip.

Overseas Taxes & Fees

This tour may have taxes and fees that cannot be included in your airline ticket price because you are required to pay them in person onsite. All taxes are subject to change without notice and can be paid in cash (either U.S. or local currency). If applicable, you will receive a list of these fees with your Final Documents.

RIGORS, VACCINES & GENERAL HEALTH

Is This Adventure Right for You?

Please review the information below prior to departing on this adventure. We reserve the right for our Trip Experience Leaders to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their condition would adversely affect the health, safety, or enjoyment of themselves or of other travelers.

PACING

- 7 locations in 17 days (select departures include three 1-night stays)
- Several long overland drives, including one 6-hour transfer on Day 13 and two transfers of up to 12 hours crossing the borders between Argentina and Chile on Day 7 and Day 15; three internal flights of 2-5 hours each

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Not appropriate for travelers using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids
- You must be able to walk 3 miles unassisted and participate in 6-8 hours of physical activities each day
- This trip take you to remote locations with no medical facilities nearby
- Day 14 is a very active day, with the opportunity to take two 1-2 hour hikes of up to 8 miles
- We reserve the right for Trip Experience Leaders to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home if their limitations impact the group's experience

CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures average between 50-60°F year-round and rain or high winds are possible at any time in the Andes and Patagonia
- In Buenos Aires summertime temperatures range between 67-90°F with high humidity

TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- Travel over city streets, bumpy roads, and rugged paths; and walk and hike through backwoods on 4 treks of around 2 hours each
- Agility and balance are required for horseback rides, boarding small boats, and hiking on uneven terrain in high winds
- Travel by minibus (no toilet on board), ferry, horse, chairlift, and small boat
- Three 6- to 12-hour drives, and 3 internal flights of 2-5 hours each

FLIGHT INFORMATION

- Travel time will be 11-17 hours and will most likely have two connections

ACCOMMODATIONS & FACILITIES

- All accommodations are hotel-standard and feature private baths

Steps to Take Before Your Trip

Before you leave on this adventure, we recommend the following:

- Check with the CDC for their recommendations for the countries you'll be visiting. You can contact them online at **www.cdc.gov/travel** or by phone at **1-800-232-4636**.
- Have a medical checkup with your doctor at least 6 weeks before your trip.
- Pick up any necessary medications, both prescription and over-the-counter.
- Have a dental and/or eye checkup. (Recommended, but less urgent)

Vaccines Required

Yellow Fever

The CDC does NOT recommend the yellow fever vaccination for any of the areas we travel to on the main trip or pre-trip extension. However, they do recommend it for the Iguassu Falls post-trip extension, if your health allows. The vaccination is not for everyone. Please discuss this health recommendation with your doctor, because he or she can offer a suggestion tailored to your personal medical history. If you and your doctor decide the vaccination is not right for you, you are NOT REQUIRED to get it to visit Iguassu Falls. If you and your doctor decide to move forward with the vaccination, then he or she will issue you a Yellow Fever Card that shows you have been vaccinated.

TIP for travelers on the Iguassu extension: If you do get the vaccine, we recommend that you bring your Yellow Fever Card with you on the trip. If you don't get the vaccine, then we suggest you bring a letter from your medical provider stating that you cannot receive it for medical reasons. If either Argentina or Brazil (the two countries we visit at the falls) makes a last-minute change to its entry policy before you leave, having one of these documents with you could make all the difference.

The Yellow Fever vaccine is required for the optional stopover to La Paz, Bolivia. Without proof of vaccination, or a vaccination waiver from your doctor, you will be unable to receive a visa or enter the country.

Medication Suggestions

- An antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness
- Prescription pain medication in the unlikely event of an injury in a remote location

Traveling with Medications

- **Pack medications in your carry-on bag** to avoid loss and to have them handy.
- **Keep medicines in their original, labeled containers** for a quicker security screen at the airport and a better experience if you get stopped by customs while overseas.
- **Bring copies of your prescriptions**, written using the generic drug name rather than a brand name to be prepared for any unforeseen loss of your medications.

We recommend checking with the State Department for medication restrictions by country: **travel.state.gov** (Go to “Find International Travel Information”, select “Country Information”, then enter the country into the search bar; if you don’t see any medications specifically mentioned under the “Health” section, then you can presume major U.S. brands should be OK).

Staying Healthy on Your Trip

Jet Lag Tips

- Start your trip well-rested.
- Begin a gradual transition to your new time zone before you leave or switch to your destination time zone when you get on the plane.
- Attempt to sleep and eat according to the new schedule.
- Avoid heavy eating and drinking caffeine or alcoholic beverages right before—and during—your flight.
- Drink plenty of water and/or fruit juice while flying
- Stretch your legs, neck, and back periodically while seated on the plane.
- After arrival, avoid the temptation to nap.
- Don’t push yourself to see a lot on your first day.
- Try to stay awake your first day until after dinner.

Allergies

If you have any serious allergies or dietary restrictions, we advise you to notify us at least 30 days prior to your departure. Please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**, and we will communicate them to our regional office. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.

Water

Tap water is generally safe to drink in Argentina, Chile, and Brazil, but it is processed differently than in the U.S., so it may feel “heavy” and could upset your system. Fortunately, bottled water is readily available for you to buy and is inexpensive compared to the U.S. When buying bottled water, inspect each bottle before you buy it to make sure the cap is sealed properly. To fight dehydration, carry a bottle in your backpack at all times.

Food

We've carefully chosen the restaurants for your group meals. Fruits and vegetables are safe to eat in Argentina and Chile.

Insect Repellent: Recommended for Iguassu Falls Extension

At time of writing there were reports of dengue fever in the Iguassu Falls area. If you are taking the Iguassu Falls extension, we recommend that you bring insect repellent as a preventative measure against dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases.

MONEY MATTERS: LOCAL CURRENCY & TIPPING GUIDELINES

Top Three Tips

- **Carry a mix of different types of payments**, such as local currency, an ATM card, and a credit card.
- **Traveler's checks are not accepted** in Chile and Argentina.
- **You will not be able to pay with U.S. dollars on the majority of this trip**; you will need local currency instead. U.S. dollars may be accepted in larger cities, such as Buenos Aires, but you should always ask about exchange rates before making a purchase.

Local Currency

For current exchange rates, please refer to an online converter tool like www.xe.com/currencyconverter, your bank, or the financial section of your newspaper.

Argentina: Argentine Peso (\$)

Chile: Chilean Peso (\$)

Brazil: Brazilian Real (R\$)

How to Exchange Money

If you want to exchange money before your trip, you can usually do so through your bank or at an exchange office. Your departure airport in the U.S., a travel agent, or an AAA office are also possible outlets. Or you can wait and change money on the trip instead—but it might be helpful to arrive with some local currency in case you run into a bank holiday or an “out of order” ATM.

In Argentina, the best way to exchange currency is to wait until your arrival. Your Trip Experience Leader will guide you to an exchange office where you will get the best exchange rate. We advise you bring large U.S. bills in perfect, almost brand new condition (not worn, torn, or dirty). New bills (post 2013) are best.

Please note, the exchange rate is best when exchanging \$100 bills, versus \$50 bills or \$20 bills. If you exchange currency in the U.S. prior to your departure or get money from a local ATM, you will get it at a lower exchange rate compared to a local exchange office.

You may need your passport to exchange cash. Never exchange money on the street. All exchange methods involve fees, which may be built into the conversion rate; ask beforehand.

ATMs

When using the ATM, keep in mind that it may only accept cards from local banks, and may not allow cash advances on credit cards; you might need to try more than one ATM or more than one card.

Many banks charge a fee of \$1–\$10 each time you use a foreign ATM. Others may charge you a percentage of the amount you withdraw. We recommend that you check with your bank before you depart.

Lastly, don't forget to memorize the actual digits of your card's PIN number (many keypads at foreign ATMs do not include letters on their keys—they only display numbers.)

In most countries, ATMs are widely available in major cities. If you are in a rural location, it will likely be harder to find an ATM.

Argentina: ATMs are available in larger cities like Buenos Aires, but will not be available in remote locations.

Chile: ATMs are available in larger cities, such as Santiago, but will not be available in remote locations.

Brazil: ATMs are fairly common in larger cities and towns, but may not be readily available in undeveloped areas. Not all ATMs are open 24/7—many are only open from 7 am until 10 pm, and then they shut down overnight. (It can be confusing because they may still be lit, even when closed.) Also, keep in mind that not every ATM will accept foreign cards. You may need to try more than one machine.

Credit & Debit Cards

While traveling, most countries and major cities will accept credit cards. Even if you don't plan on using a credit card during your trip, we still suggest that you bring one or two as a backup, especially if you are planning a large purchase (artwork, jewelry). We also suggest that you bring more than one brand of card (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, American Express) if possible, because not every shop will take every card. For example, although Discover and American Express cards are accepted in some countries outside the U.S., they are not widely adopted, so other brands will work at a much larger range of stores, restaurants, etc.

If you are visiting a country that does not commonly accept credit cards, they will be listed below.

Argentina: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in Buenos Aires for major purchases and in shops associated with the tourist trade (souvenirs, museum gift shops, etc.), but may not be accepted by smaller shops or restaurants. Some businesses add a surcharge of 5–10% to use a credit card; look for the word “recargo”. Some restaurants will accept credit cards—but not all—and you cannot leave a tip on a credit card. Visa is commonly accepted, but MasterCard and American Express are not. In November 2022, the government of Argentina added a new financial exchange rate (known as “Dólar MEP” or “Mercado Electronico de Pagos”) for all travelers paying with credit cards issued outside of Argentina. This new exchange rate is higher than the official dollar, but is more convenient for travelers. It is essentially a tax on credit card use for travelers. **We recommend that you check with your Trip Experience Leader as to what would be the best way for you to pay during your trip.**

Chile: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in large cities for major purchases and in shops associated with the tourist trade (souvenirs, museum gift shops, etc.), but may not be accepted by smaller shops or restaurants. Some businesses add a surcharge of 2–4% to use a credit card. Credit cards are generally not accepted in more remote locations.

Brazil: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in Brazil, especially for major purchases or in businesses that cater to visitors (hotels, souvenirs shops, etc.). Nonetheless, there are some businesses—street vendors, small “Mom and Pop” stores, some restaurants, and taxis—that are still “cash only”. If you don’t see a credit card logo on the door or the cash register, then check with the cashier or server. In undeveloped areas, cash is usually the preferred form of payment.

TIP: Credit card fraud can occasionally be an issue in restaurants in Brazil, especially if the waiter takes your card away to process the payment. You can easily block this scam by not letting your credit card out of your sight. That is why you will see portable credit card machines in many upscale restaurants in Brazil—they bring the machine to you instead of taking your card away. And in restaurants that don’t have a portable machine, it is completely OK to walk your card to the register and watch as the transaction is processed.

Notify Card Providers of Upcoming Travel

Many credit card companies and banks have fraud alert departments that will freeze your card if they see suspicious charges—such as charges or withdrawals from another country. To avoid an accidental security block, it is a good idea to notify your credit card company and/or bank you will be using your cards abroad. You can do this by calling their customer service number a week or two before your departure. Some banks or credit card companies will also let you do this online.

You should also double-check what phone number you could call if you have a problem with a card while you are abroad. Don’t assume you can use the 1-800 number printed on the back of your card—most 1 800 numbers don’t work outside of the U.S.!

Tipping Guidelines

Of course, whether you tip, and how much, is always at your own discretion. But for those of you who have asked for tipping suggestions, we offer these guidelines:

- **O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader:** It is customary to express a personal “thank you” to your Trip Experience Leader at the end of your trip. As a guideline, many travelers give \$10–\$14 USD (or equivalent in local currency) per person for each day their Trip Experience Leader is with them. *Please note that these tips can only be in cash. If you are taking any of the optional extensions, your Trip Experience Leader during the extension(s) may not be the same as the one on your main trip.*
- **Housekeeping staff at hotels:** \$1 per night
- **Waiters:** Your Trip Experience Leader will tip waiters for included meals. When dining on your own, waiters in Argentina and Chile expect a 10% cash tip. In Brazil, a 10% service charge is added to the bill, so there’s no need to leave an additional amount unless service is especially good.

- **Taxis:** Tipping is not customary, but many locals will round up the fare and let the driver keep the change. For long-distance drives, or for a long period of hire, a tip may be given according to the service received.
- **Included in Your Trip Price:** Gratuities are included for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters on your main trip, extensions, and all optional tours.

Please note: Tips are quoted in U.S. dollars for budgeting purposes; tips can be converted and paid in local currency or in U.S. dollars (this is usually preferred). Please do not use personal or traveler's checks for tips.

AIR, OPTIONAL TOURS & STAYING IN TOUCH

Land Only Travelers & Personalized Air

Quick Definitions

- **Land Only:** You will be booking your own international flights. Airport transfers are not included.
- **Air-Inclusive:** You booked international air with us. Airport transfers are included as long as you didn't customize your trip's dates (see next bullet).
- **Arrive Early or Stopover (select adventures only):** If you chose one of these Personalization options and purchased air through O.A.T, accommodations and airport transfers are included. However, if you chose one of our Personalization options, but did not purchase air through O.A.T., accommodations are included, but airport transfers are not. If you chose one of our Personalization options, and purchase air through O.A.T. but not the accommodations, the airport transfers are not included. We have included transfer options below.
- **Personalization on Your Own:** If you have not purchased air through O.A.T. and decided to arrive early, stay longer, or stop in a connecting city on your own, you are responsible for airport transfers and accommodations. For your convenience, a preliminary list of your included hotels is available on your My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner under "My Reservations" to help you with selecting a hotel for your additional time.

Air Inclusive Travelers

If you have purchased international air with us, there are some points that may be helpful for you to know.

- **U.S. Departure:** If you are among a group of ten or more travelers who depart the U.S. from your international gateway city, it is our goal to have an O.A.T. Representative assist you at the U.S. airport with the check-in of your flight. Unless there are extenuating circumstances beyond our control, the Representative will be at the check-in counter three hours before your departure time. If you are flying domestically before your international flight, the representative will be stationed at the check-in counter for your departing international flight, not at the domestic arrival gate.
- **U.S. Return:** If you are among a group of ten or more travelers who return to the same U.S. gateway city, an O.A.T. Representative will meet you as you exit Customs and help you find taxis, buses, hotel accommodations, or connecting flights. Again, it is our goal to have our Representative waiting to assist your group. In rare instances, unforeseen circumstances may prevent this service.

- **Flying with a Travel Companion:** If you're traveling with a companion from a different household, and both of you are beginning and ending your trip at the same airport on the same dates, let us know you'd like to travel together and we'll make every effort to arrange this (please note, however, that this is not always possible). If you request any changes to your flights, please be sure that both you and your companion tell us that you still want to fly together.
- **Selecting Your Seats:** If your airline allows pre-assigned seats, you will be able to select and view them directly from the airline's website after booking. Some airlines will not allow seat confirmation until your reservation is ticketed 45–30 days prior to departure, and/or they may charge a nominal fee. You may locate your itinerary on an airline's website utilizing the Record Locator Number found on the Air Itinerary in your My Planner.

Flight Dates Reminder

If booking your own international flights, please also note that the tour will end on Day 18 of the base tour (Day 22 of the post trip) for your overnight flight back to the United States.

Airport Transfers Can Be Purchased

For eligible flights, airport transfers may be purchased separately as an optional add-on, subject to availability. To be eligible, your flight(s) must meet the following requirements:

- You must fly into or fly home from the same airport as O.A.T. travelers who purchased included airfare.
- Your flight(s) must arrive/depart on the same day that the group arrives or departs.
- If you are arriving early, you must have arranged the hotels through our Arrive Early personalization option

Airport transfers can be purchased up to 45 days prior to your departure; they are not available for purchase onsite. To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**.

If you don't meet the requirements above, you'll need to make your own transfer arrangements. We suggest the Rome to Rio website as a handy resource: www.rome2rio.com

Optional Tours

Optional tours are additional add-on tours that allow you to personalize your adventure by tailoring it to your tastes and needs. And if you decide not to join an optional tour? Then you'll have free time to relax or explore on your own—it's about options, not obligations.

What You Need to Know

- All optional tours are subject to change and availability.

- Optional tours that are reserved with your Trip Experience Leader can be paid for using credit/debit cards only. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards; we can also take MasterCard or Visa debit cards as long as the card allows you to sign for purchases. (You won't be able to enter a PIN.)
- To ensure that you are charged in U.S. dollars, your payment will be processed by our U.S. headquarters in Boston. This process can take up to three months, so we ask that you only use a card that will still be valid three months after your trip is over. The charge may appear on your credit card statement as being from Boston, MA or may be labeled as "OPT Boston".
- Your Trip Experience Leader will give you details on the optional tours while you're on the trip. But if you'd like to look over descriptions of them earlier, you can do so at any time by referring to your Day-to-Day Itinerary (available online by signing into My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner).

Communicating with Home from Abroad

Cell Phones

If you want to use your cell phone on the trip, check with your phone provider to see if your phone and service will work outside of the U.S. It may turn out to be cheaper to rent an international phone or buy a SIM card onsite. If you want to use a local SIM, just make certain your phone can accept one.

Calling Apps

Another option is to use a smartphone app like Skype, FaceTime, or WhatsApp. We recommend you use WhatsApp to communicate with home while abroad and with your Trip Experience Leader while onsite. You will need a Wi-Fi connection if you do not have international coverage. Other calling options include smartphone apps such as Skype or FaceTime. You will need a Wi-Fi connection for these apps and the calls may count towards your phone plan's data allowance. Many smartphones—and some tablets or laptops—come with one of these apps pre-installed or you can download them for free from the appropriate apps store.

Calling Cards and 1-800 Numbers

When calling the U.S. from a foreign country, a prepaid calling card can be useful because it circumvents unexpected charges from the hotel. Calling cards purchased locally are typically the best (less expensive, more likely to work with the local phones, etc.).

One reminder: Do not call U.S. 1-800 numbers outside the continental United States. This can result in costly long distance fees, since 1-800 numbers do not work outside the country.

Internet

Internet access on this adventure will be mostly limited to computers in the hotel lobby or business center; most hotels in Chile and Argentina do not offer Wi-Fi in the rooms, and the ones that do charge for the service.

How to Call Overseas

When calling overseas from the U.S., dial 011 for international exchange, then the country code (indicated by a plus sign: +), and then the number. Note that foreign phone numbers may not have the same number of digits as U.S. numbers; even within a country the number of digits can vary depending on the city and if the phone is a land line or cell phone.

Argentina: +54

Brazil: +55

Chile: +56

PACKING: WHAT TO BRING & LUGGAGE LIMITS

Luggage Limits

MAIN TRIP LIMITS	
Pieces per person	One checked bag and one carry-on per person.
Weight restrictions	The weight limit for this adventure is currently 50 lbs for checked bags and 17 lbs for a carry-on. <i>Flights on Aerolineas Argentinas are subject to possible changes, see below.</i>
Size Restrictions	Varies by airline. Measured in linear inches (<i>length+width+depth</i>). Generally, 62 linear inches is the checked bag limit; carry-on limit is 45 linear inches.
Luggage Type	Duffel bag or soft-sided suitcase. Please do not bring a hard-sided (clamshell) suitcase.
TRIP EXTENSION(S) LIMITS	
Same as the main trip.	
REMARKS/SUGGESTIONS	
<p>Luggage rules: Luggage rules and limits are set by governmental and airline policy. Enforcement of the rules may include spot checks or may be inconsistent. However one thing is the same across the board: If you are found to have oversized or overweight luggage, you will be subject to additional fees, to be assessed by—and paid to—the airline in question.</p> <p>Aerolineas Argentinas: The published weight limit on Aerolineas Argentinas is 33lbs for checked bags, but we have arranged a higher allowance of 50lbs on your behalf as an exception. While we do not expect any changes to this exception, it is at the discretion of the airline, meaning it could change in future. Therefore if you have any flights on Aerolineas Argentinas we recommend you double-check your Final Documents booklet about two weeks before your departure to confirm that this exception is still in effect.</p>	

Don't Forget:

- **These luggage limits may change.** If the airline(s) notify us of any changes, we will include an update in your Final Documents booklet.

- It's a good idea to reconfirm baggage restrictions and fees directly with the airline a week or so prior to departure. For your convenience, we maintain a list of the toll-free numbers for the most common airlines on our website in the *FAQ* section.
- **Baggage fees are not included in your trip price;** they are payable directly to the airlines.
- The luggage limits above are based on your regional flights, which may be less than your international flights. Even if your international airline offers a larger weight limit, you will need to pack according to the lower restrictions.

Your Luggage

- **Checked Luggage:** One duffel bag or suitcase. Look for one with heavy nylon fabric, wrap-around handles, built-in wheels, and a heavy duty lockable zipper. Please do not bring a rigid (plastic shell) suitcase.
- **Carry-on Bag:** You are allowed one carry-on bag per person. We suggest a tote or small backpack that can be used as both a carry-on bag for your flight and to carry your daily necessities—water bottle, camera, etc—during your daily activities.
- **Optional Luggage Storage on Iguassu Falls Post-Trip Extension:** If you are joining the post-trip extension, you have the option to store your main luggage at the hotel in Buenos Aires while you journey to Iguassu Falls; you will be able to pick it up at the end of the extension before your return flight to the U.S. If you choose to store luggage in Buenos Aires, we recommend that you re-purpose your carry-on bag or use a backpack in Iguassu Falls.
- **Locks:** For flights that originate in the U.S., you can either use a TSA-approved lock or leave your luggage unlocked. Outside of the U.S. we strongly recommend locking your luggage as a theft-prevention measure.

Clothing Suggestions: Functional Tips

As you will experience a wide range of temperatures and weather conditions, we suggest several layers of clothing. You'll want fairly good-quality rain gear for the Iguassu extension. If you like to hand-wash your clothes, look for fabrics that will dry out overnight. You can buy clothing designed especially for travel, with features like wrinkle-resistant fabric or built-in sun protection.

- **Dress in layers:** You can add or remove layers according to weather shifts, especially for traveling to the tip of South America. Suggestions include turtlenecks, long-sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, a warm jacket, long underwear, etc.
- **Warm clothing:** We suggest a warm sweater, a windproof jacket, gloves, and a hat for your time in Patagonia (Bariloche, Calafate and Paine). These mountainous areas are cool year-round, and it has been known to snow at the higher elevations even in summer.
- **Walking shoes:** You'll be on your feet and walking a lot, so choose your footwear carefully. You can find especially supportive shoes designed for walking. Light hiking boots might be useful on some days.

- **Hiking sticks/Trekking poles:** Many past travelers have recommended bringing a folding hiking stick (sometimes called a trekking pole) sold in most camping stores. An alternative is a folding ski pole.
- **Rain gear:** You'll want good, light rain gear all year round. Because mist and unpredictable rain occur year-round in the Patagonia region, we strongly suggest you bring a sturdy waterproof shell or jacket (this will also keep you comfortable on windy days), waterproof pants, waterproof shoes, and a rain hat or folding umbrella.

Style Hints

Dress on our trip is functional and casual. Women might want to bring one casual dress and a pair of dressier sandals.

Suggested Packing Lists

We have included suggestions from Trip Experience Leaders and former travelers to help you pack. These packing lists are only jumping-off points—they offer recommendations based on experience, but not requirements. We recommend using www.weather.com and consulting the “Climate” chapter of this handbook.

And don't forget a reusable water bottle—you'll need it to take advantage of any refills we offer as we are working to eliminate single-use plastic bottles on all of our trips.

Year-Round Clothing Checklist

- ☐ Shirts: A mixture of short and long-sleeved shirts to layer
- ☐ Trousers and/or jeans: Comfortable and loose fitting is best.
- ☐ Walking shorts: Shorts may be more useful for travelers on the Iguassu Falls extension
- ☐ Shoes and socks: Comfortable walking/ running shoes or low-cut hiking shoes, with arch support. Light hiking boots might be useful on some days, but are not required. You'll want at least a couple pairs of heavier socks for active days or hiking. If you are taking the optional Iguassu Falls extension, you may want to bring a pair of sneakers that you don't mind disposing of after the tour as the soil in the jungle tends to leave stains.
- ☐ Light rain jacket/windbreaker with hood
- ☐ Light wool or fleece sweater: Even in the summer this can be useful as motorcoach air conditioning can be chilly.
- ☐ Polartec fleece jacket. Even in summer, Patagonia can be cool, especially in the mountains.
- ☐ Hat and gloves. It can be cold near the glaciers, even in summer.
- ☐ Wide-brim sun hat or visor for sun protection

- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Sleepwear
- ☐ Optional: Swimsuit

Seasonal Clothing Recommendations

For September–April departures:

- ☐ Gear for cold weather: The seasons are reversed south of the equator. (Our spring and summer is their fall and winter.) In some places on the itinerary, the nighttime low dips to the 30s, so winter gear like a sweater, warm coat, hat, gloves, scarf, etc is a must.

Essential Items

- ☐ Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, etc. Hotels provide shampoo and soap but usually not washcloths.
- ☐ Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses; sunglasses
- ☐ Sunscreen: SPF 30 or stronger
- ☐ Insect repellent with DEET (we recommend 30–35% strength). Some previous travelers have mentioned that this is more useful on the extensions than on the main trip.
- ☐ Flashlight or headlamp: Consider a small but powerful LED version or a version with an alternative power source (wind-up, solar powered).
- ☐ Pocket-size tissues
- ☐ Moist towelettes (baby wipes) and/or anti-bacterial “water-free” hand cleanser
- ☐ Electrical transformer & plug adapters
- ☐ Camera gear with extra batteries or battery charger. We recommend bringing ziploc bags to protect your camera.

Medicines & First Aid Gear

- ☐ Your own prescription medicines
- ☐ Travel first aid kit: Band-Aids, headache and pain relief, laxatives and anti-diarrhea tablets, something for upset stomach. Maybe a cold remedy, moleskin foot pads, or antibiotic cream.
- ☐ An antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness

☐ Optional: A strong prescription pain medication for rare emergency purposes

Home-Hosted Visits

Many of our adventures feature a visit with a local family, often as part of the *A Day in the Life* experience. It is customary, though not necessary, to return your hosts' generosity with a small gift. If you do bring a gift, we recommend that you bring something the whole family can enjoy, or something that represents your region, state, or hometown. Get creative and keep it small—peach jelly from Georgia, maple sugar candy from New England, orange blossom soap from California; something that can be used or used up is best. When choosing a gift, be certain to consider the local culture as well. For example, we do not recommend alcohol in Muslim communities because it is forbidden in Islam, and your hosts may be religious. Not all O.A.T. adventures include a Home-Hosted Visit; please check your final itinerary before you depart.

Electricity Abroad

When traveling overseas, the voltage is usually different and the plugs might not be the same shape.

Voltage

Electricity in Chile, Argentina, and Brazil is 220 volts. In the U.S. it is 110 volts. Most of the things a traveler will want to plug in—battery chargers, smartphones, tablets or computers—can run off both 110 and 220–240. But you should check the item or the owner's guide first to confirm this before you plug it in. If you have something that needs 110 volts—like a shaver or a hairdryer—you can bring a transformer to change the current. (But transformers tend to burn out, so it might be better to leave whatever it is at home.)

Plugs

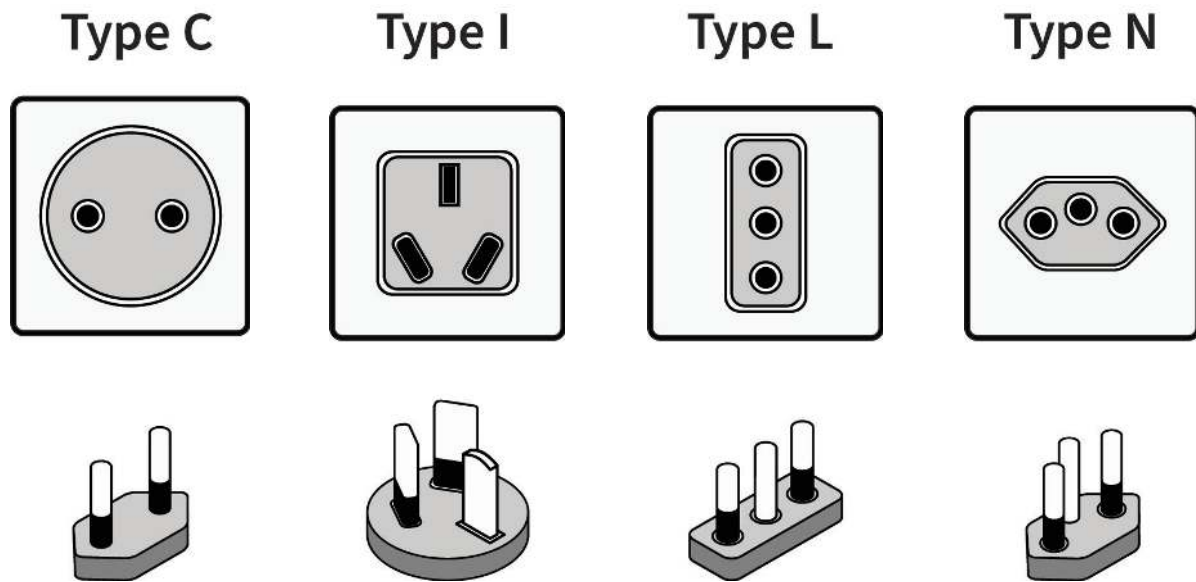
The shape of plugs will vary from country to country, and sometimes even within a country depending on when that building was built. To plug something from the U.S. into a local socket you'll need an adapter that fits between the plug and the socket. Because there are many different types of plugs in this region, it may be easier to purchase an all-in-one, universal adapter/converter combo. Versatile and lightweight, these can usually be found at your local electronics goods or hardware stores. Sometimes you can buy them at large retailers too, like Target or Walmart. If you forget to bring an adapter, you might also find them for sale at the airport when you arrive at your destination.

Different plug shapes are named by letters of the alphabet. Standard U.S. plugs are Type A and Type B. Here is the list of plugs for the countries on this trip:

Argentina: I

Chile: C and/or L

Brazil: C or N



Availability

Barring the occasional and unpredictable power outage, electricity is as readily available on this adventure as it is in the U.S.

CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Buenos Aires, Argentina: While the official high temperatures in summer (December through February) are usually in the 80s, with the humidity it often feels much hotter. It is common to think it is actually in the 90s, so be prepared. During the winter (June through September), Buenos Aires is cold and rainy, with the average temperature in the 30s but with a lot of humidity. The changeable spring and mild fall of Buenos Aires are similar to those seasons in New York City, but the proximity of the South Atlantic makes winter temperatures milder than New York's comparable months and the possibility of snow almost nonexistent. The almost-constant breezes during all seasons except summer refresh this city's air and renew its skies.

Bariloche, Argentina: Technically, the city is named San Carlos de Bariloche, but is known locally as Bariloche. Located in the foothills of the Andes Mountains, the local climate is generally windy, sunny, and cool. In the summer (December to late February/early March) highs are pleasant—in the 60s and 70s—but lows are usually in the 40s. Fall and winter are progressively colder, with snowfall arriving in May and running through September. Spring is mixed—mostly in the 50s, but with an occasional late dusting of snow. It rains variably all year, especially between March–October.

Puerto Varas, Chile: Puerto Varas is almost the same latitude south as Portland, Oregon, is north. This is the gateway to the Chilean Lake District, and the whole area has a climate similar to that of Washington and Oregon. The landscape is renowned for its pristine lakes and still-breathing, snow-capped volcanoes. The region's climate is changeable, cool, and wet. Rain is almost guaranteed.

Punta Arenas, Chile: Similar to the rest of the towns in this region, Punta Arenas has a cold steppe climate. The average summer temperatures are in the mid 50s and the average winter temperatures are in the mid 30s. The seasonal temperature in Punta Arenas is greatly moderated by its proximity to the ocean. This is not to say that it is known for stable constant temperatures, only small variability with season. Punta Arenas is also quite dry, with only 1.7 inches of rain in its wettest month of May. The city is also known for its strong winds, up to 80 mph. Winds tend to be strongest during the summer.

Easter Island, Chile: The cool Humboldt current keeps this sub-tropical climate cooler than most of its kind. The annual average temperature is 70°. February is hottest; July and August coolest, with winds adding a chill. Some amount of rain falls 140 days a year, though much of it falls at night. The heaviest months for rain are March–June. August–December are the driest months.

Iguassu Falls, Argentina & Brazil: Iguassu Falls experiences a humid subtropical climate. Temperatures are hot year-round – around 90° (and sometimes feel hotter than they really are because of the humidity). Rainfall is distributed fairly evenly throughout the year. The average humidity most mornings is more than 90%, but it lessens in the afternoon.

NOTE: If you are taking one of our optional stopovers before or after your OAT adventure, please be aware the climate and temperatures might be different from what you experienced during your tour. To prepare for weather differences and pack appropriate clothing, we recommend the following world weather sites:

- www.intellicast.com
- www.weather.com
- www.wunderground.com

Climate Averages & Online Forecast

The following charts reflect the **average** climate as opposed to exact weather conditions. This means they serve only as general indicators of what can reasonably be expected. An extreme heat wave or cold snap could fall outside these ranges. As your departure approaches, we encourage you to use **www.weather.com** for a more accurate forecast of the locations you visit.

Average Daily High/Low Temperatures (°F), Humidity & Monthly Rainfall

MONTH	BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA			BARILOCHE, ARGENTINA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	87 to 69	86 to 47	4.2	71 to 44	76 to 41	1.0
FEB	84 to 67	89 to 52	4.0	71 to 42	77 to 40	1.0
MAR	80 to 63	90 to 54	4.0	66 to 39	81 to 47	1.6
APR	73 to 57	91 to 59	3.3	58 to 35	83 to 56	2.4
MAY	66 to 51	89 to 60	3.1	50 to 33	85 to 67	5.9
JUN	60 to 46	89 to 62	2.1	44 to 30	87 to 73	6.1
JUL	59 to 45	89 to 62	2.3	44 to 30	86 to 73	5.7
AUG	63 to 48	88 to 57	2.3	46 to 30	84 to 64	4.5
SEP	66 to 50	87 to 53	2.4	51 to 31	83 to 53	2.5
OCT	73 to 55	88 to 56	4.0	57 to 34	81 to 46	1.6
NOV	78 to 61	86 to 53	3.6	63 to 38	80 to 42	1.1
DEC	83 to 65	86 to 48	3.3	68 to 42	78 to 42	1.3

MONTH	PUERTO VARAS, CHILE			PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Rainfall	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	69 to 49	--	16	57 to 45	74 to 61	1.4
FEB	69 to 48	--	11	57 to 45	77 to 61	1.1
MAR	66 to 46	--	16	54 to 42	82 to 66	1.6
APR	60 to 43	--	20	49 to 38	85 to 73	1.6
MAY	56 to 42	--	22	44 to 35	88 to 83	1.7
JUN	52 to 40	--	23	39 to 32	87 to 84	1.3
JUL	52 to 38	--	23	38 to 31	86 to 82	1.3
AUG	53 to 38	--	22	41 to 32	86 to 77	1.3
SEP	56 to 39	--	21	46 to 35	84 to 69	1.1
OCT	59 to 42	--	21	50 to 38	78 to 63	0.9
NOV	63 to 44	--	20	53 to 40	73 to 61	1.1
DEC	67 to 47	--	19	56 to 43	74 to 61	1.2

MONTH	EASTER ISLAND, CHILE			IGUASSU FALLS, ARGENTINA & BRAZIL		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	78 to 70	87 to 70	3.6	88 to 68	80	7.5
FEB	79 to 71	88 to 71	3.4	88 to 68	80	6.3
MAR	78 to 70	88 to 71	3.4	90 to 66	80	6.3
APR	76 to 68	86 to 73	4.6	84 to 61	85	6.7
MAY	73 to 66	84 to 74	5.0	75 to 54	90	7.1
JUN	70 to 64	84 to 73	4.0	73 to 50	90	5.9
JUL	69 to 62	84 to 73	3.7	73 to 50	85	3.9
AUG	68 to 62	84 to 73	3.4	79 to 52	80	5.5
SEP	70 to 62	85 to 72	3.3	81 to 54	80	7.1
OCT	71 to 62	86 to 70	2.9	86 to 59	80	7.5
NOV	73 to 65	87 to 70	3.2	88 to 63	75	8.3
DEC	76 to 67	87 to 70	3.6	90 to 66	75	7.5

ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE

O.A.T. Trip Experience Leaders: A World of Difference

During your adventure, you'll be accompanied by one of our local, Trip Experience Leaders. All are fluent in English and possess the skills, certification, and experience necessary to ensure an enriching adventure. As locals of the regions you'll explore with them, our Trip Experience Leaders provide the kind of firsthand knowledge and insight that make local history, culture, and wildlife come alive. Coupled with their unbridled enthusiasm, caring personalities, and ability to bring diverse groups of travelers together, our Trip Experience Leaders ensure that your experience with O.A.T. is one you'll remember for a lifetime.

South American Culture

History has seen to it that there are many cultural similarities shared by most modern-day South American nations, including the three visited on this adventure: Chile, Argentina, and Brazil. While South America was once home to a wide range of indigenous populations with distinct languages, customs, and cultural traditions, the continent was conquered almost at the very same time by two neighboring European empires—Spain and Portugal. Spain colonized Argentina for 200 years and Chile for close to 300 years; and Portugal colonized Brazil for two centuries.

Spanish and Portuguese colonization began in South America in the early 1500s. And within a century, about 90% of South America's indigenous populations had been eliminated at the hands of colonialists. Many ancient cultures have survived, however, resulting in a fusion of cultures that reflect both European colonizers and indigenous traditions in each South American country. As a result, most modern-day Argentinians are descendants of Spanish colonizers with minimal indigenous influences; most modern-day Chileans are descendants of Spanish colonizers and indigenous Mapuche Indians; and most modern-day Brazilians are descendants of Portuguese colonizers, indigenous peoples, along with slaves from Africa.

Language is always a strong part of national identity. Spanish is spoken in Argentina. And in Chile, almost everyone also speaks Spanish, or castellano as they would say—yet there are remote regions of the country where indigenous Mapuche speak their own languages and practice their own religion. And in Brazil, close to 100% of the population speak Portuguese—with the only exceptions being small pockets of Amerindian groups or recently arrive Asian immigrant communities.

But while all South American countries do share many cultural influences stemming from European colonization, each is passionate about variances that are uniquely their own—like Brazil's samba and West African-influenced cuisine, Argentina's tango, or Chile's national dance called the cueca. And in Argentina, for example, gauchos remain a proud symbol of Argentinian culture. These iconic cowboys of mixed European and indigenous descent began roaming the Pampas grasslands of Argentina on horseback beginning in the 18th century.

Like in much of South America, these three countries are predominantly Roman Catholic, but the spiritual beliefs of indigenous cultures influence many religious celebrations and activities. Whether it's indigenous roots, regional cuisine, music, art, or iconic dances, each South American country is justifiably proud and passionate about their own unique history and culture.

Taking Photographs

The etiquette of photographing people in most countries is about the same as it would be on the streets of your hometown. You need permission to take a close-up, but not for a crowd scene. Be especially polite if you want to photograph children or older women. If you want to shoot a great portrait, show interest in your subject and try to have a bit of social interaction first. Then use sign language to inquire if a picture is OK.

Please do not take photographs of military personnel, military compounds, or other official institutions/personnel (such as police). This may result in the confiscation of your camera.

In museums or at archaeological sites, there may be restrictions on using your flash. Please obey any signs or directions by staff; the no-flash rule protects the fragile artifacts and artwork from damage by repeated exposure to light. Occasionally, there may also be a small fee levied by the museum or site for the privilege of taking photos.

Safety & Security

As you travel, exercise the same caution and awareness that you would in a large American city. Don't be overly nervous or suspicious, but keep your eyes open. If you are venturing out after dark, go with one or two other people.

Carry a one-day supply of cash, and your passport, in a travel pouch. Don't leave valuables unattended in your hotel room. Most hotels will offer use of a hotel safe at the front desk or an electronic in-room safe (for which you can set your own personal number). Please utilize this.

Pickpockets may create a sudden distraction. In any sort of puzzling street situation, try to keep one hand on your wallet or money belt. If an encounter with a local turns out to be long and complicated and involves money or your valuables, be very careful.

Argentinian Cuisine

How to sum up Argentine cooking in just a few words? Probably: Meats, Italian-style pasta, and coffee.

Beef, or *bife* (beef-eh), is the staple of Argentina and the golden El Dorado of her economy. Somewhere around 51 million Aberdeen Angus and Hereford cattle graze in the pampas and, thanks to the gauchos, provide locals with abundant, tasty fare. Restaurant menus everywhere in the country feature some type of beef selection, and lamb is popular too. For lighter fare—or for vegetarians—look for the many pasta dishes on offer, a legacy of decades of immigration from Italy. And at the end of your meal enjoy a strong cup of European-style coffee served as an espresso, latte, or cappuccino. Some dishes to look for are:

- **Asado:** Argentine-style BBQ, usually beef or lamb grilled over the coals or roasted on an open fire.
- **Parrillada:** A mixed grill platter that includes a bit of everything—*chorizo* (sausage), *costillas* (ribs), and either *carne* (beef) or *pollo* (chicken). This may also include cuts that are less familiar to Americans, such as *chinchulines* (small intestines), *mojellas* (sweetbreads), or *morcilla* (blood sausage).
- **Steak (*bife*):** Various cuts are available, but be warned that if you don't specify how you want it cooked, it will likely come medium to well done. Surprisingly, it can be hard to get rare or medium rare; it is just not common to order it that way here.
- **Chimichurri:** A spicy sauce with an olive oil base, good on everything, especially *empanadas*.
- **Empanadas:** Fried or baked pastries stuffed with meat and vegetables. Often served as a bar snack or appetizer, but order a few different kinds and you'll have a meal.
- **Chozipan:** *Chorizo* (sausage) served in a bun.
- **Dulce de leche:** A milk caramel topping that Argentines eat with all sorts of desserts and is used as the filling in *alfajores* cookies. There are so many different kinds, that you may see shops selling nothing but this sweet treat.
- **Mate:** A type of caffeinated herbal tea, often drunk socially from a gourd-shaped cup with a special straw.
- **Wines:** Argentina is known for its red wines, which pair well with all the beef, steak, and lamb on the menu. Torrontes in particular is a renowned local grape.

And finally, one note of precaution: Argentines thoroughly salt almost everything, particularly meats and even salads sometimes. If you dine out, you may want to request unsalted food. When you order, simply tell the waiter *no use* (oo-say) *sal, por favor*.

Chilean Cuisine

Chile is a cosmopolitan country, and this is strongly reflected in its food and drink. Santiago, for instance, is filled with French, Chinese, Italian, and Spanish restaurants. But the best way to dine is to sample from the great quantity of foods and beverages that are typically Chilean. Some common ingredients include *merken* (a smoked chili pepper), corn, and—courtesy of the country's long coastline—Pacific Coast seafood such as king crab, conger eel, razor clams, and *locos* (a type of sea snail).

- **Empanadas:** At the head of the list comes the *empanada*, a stuffed pastry shaped like a small turnover filled with meat and vegetables. In other countries the meat is usually beef, but in Chile you'll find many variations, including seafood and chicken.
- **Humitas:** Steamed corn cakes wrapped in corn husks—rather like the Mexican tamales, but less seasoned.

- **Cazuela de ave:** A kind of “souped-up soup.” It contains rice, corn, green beans, chicken, carrots, pumpkin, salt, and a number of herbs.
- **Curanto** is not so much a dish as a complete dinner, similar to a clambake, low country boil, or luau. When made the traditional way, a mixture of sausage, pork or chicken, seafood, corn, potatoes, and other vegetables are cooked over coals in a covered pit. In cities, it is made in casserole pots and served in some restaurants.
- **Centolla** (southern king crab): While you won’t see this on the menu everywhere, you may find it in southern towns like Punta Arenas. Other types of seafood to look for include *machas a la parmesana* (parmesan clams) and *paila marina* (seafood soup).
- **Chacareros:** Sandwiches with steak or chicken, topped with cheese, tomatoes, green beans, and sauce.
- **Sopaipillas:** Fired pumpkin fritters that are often eaten as a street snack. These can be sweet or savory.
- **Drinks:** Chile’s world-famous grapes are the foundation of its three most popular drinks. First, of course, is wine itself. Grapes are also used to make *chicha*, a brownish beverage somewhat reminiscent of apple cider with added punch. The last, and most powerful, is *aguardiente*, which translates literally into “fire water,” although it is more commonly called “pisco” and is used to make delicious pisco sour cocktails.

Lastly, one warning: The coffee in Chilean restaurants and in most homes is usually instant. So if you prefer brewed or specialty coffees, look for a cafe instead.

Brazilian Cuisine

Brazil’s cuisine varies from region to region, due to its mixed population of native Brazilians and immigrants, as well as its large size. The cuisine sees heavy influences from the Europeans who colonized much of South America, from the Africans who were brought over as slaves, and from the other nearby Amerindians. Common ingredients utilized by native Brazilians are cashews, *cassava* (a shrub with a starchy root, often called yuca), *guarana* (a climbing plant with fruit and seeds), *acai* (a fruit often compared to blackberries and unsweetened chocolate in taste), *cumaru* (a flowering tree with a bitter seed), and *tucupi* (a yellow sauce from the manioc root in the Amazon). As more Europeans settled into the country, they added wheat, wine, leafy vegetables, and dairy to the diet. Other common ingredients used include tropical fruits like coconuts, papayas, mangos, pineapples, oranges, and passion fruits. In popular dishes, you are likely to find rice, beans, cassava, or cornflour listed as a main ingredient, as they are firm staples of the cuisine. Dishes to try are:

- **Feijoada:** A stew with heavy Portuguese influences, made of black beans and pork, with garlic rice, cassava flour, collard greens, and vinaigrette
- **Feijao tropeiro:** Popular in southeastern Brazil and made with collard greens, eggs, beans, bacon, pork, and cassava flour

- **Acaraje with vatapa:** A dish popular in the northeastern region with west African influences, it is made of deep-fried ball of peeled back-eyed peas, onions, and salt, filled with *vaatapa* – a paste of shrimp, coconut milk, bread, ground peanuts, and palm oil, that was brought over by West Africa slaves.
- **Escondidinho de frango com mandioca:** A northeast region dish of chicken hidden under cassava puree
- **Moqueca:** Best known as the Brazilian Fish Stew, this dish is most popular in the northeast, with the ingredients different per region. Common made with some variation of seafood, like shellfish, shrimp, fish, etc., and served with rice
- **Pastel:** A popular street food of flat fried dough filled with melted cheese and minced meat
- **Empada:** Little pies filled with chicken, fish, *palmito* (heart of palm, a vegetable from the inner core of palm trees such as coconut or acai trees), or chocolate
- **Mousse de maracuja:** A dessert mouse made from passion fruits
- **Beijinho:** Originally from Portugal, these truffles were adapted away from almonds to the more local coconut. This dessert is made with sweetened condensed milk, coconut flakes, butter and caster sugar

Brazil also offers its own style of barbecue: *churrascaria*, where a server comes to your table with skewers of many varieties of meat and cuts it off directly onto your plate. Or for an inexpensive meal try a *comida por kilo*, self-service buffets where you pay by weight.

Shopping: What to Buy, Customs, Shipping & More

There may be scheduled visits to local shops during your adventure. There is no requirement to make a purchase during these stops, and any purchase made is a direct transaction with the shop in question, subject to the vendor's terms of purchase. O.A.T. is not responsible for purchases you make on your trip or for the shipment of your purchases.

Returns

If you discover an issue with an item, you should contact the vendor directly and expect that any resolution will take longer than it would in the U.S. We recommend that you keep a copy of all your receipts, invoices, or contracts, along with the shop's contact information. Keep in mind, local practice may vary from U.S. standards, so don't assume that you have a certain number of days after the purchase to speak up or that you are guaranteed a refund.

Crafts & Souvenirs

Argentina

Argentina is world-famous for its leather goods and you'll find them readily available in Buenos Aires. Popular buys include belts, jackets, boots, shoes, skirts, pants, briefcases, and purses. These come in a rainbow of pastels and vivid colors, and a variety of textures from rough suedes to soft

leathers. Other items worth considering include wool sweaters, clothing made of the Argentine equivalent of cashmere, ponchos, wine, mate cups, and antique silver gaucho accessories. Top-quality jewelry is also sold, with the best buys being items made with Inca Rose or rhodochrosite. Argentina is one of the few places in the world where this is found and it is used in everything from jewelry to carved figures.

Bargaining: Argentina does not have a bargaining culture; prices in shops are fixed. The only place you may be able to bargain is in the open-air markets. If you try to bargain at a market, keep in mind that if you make an offer, you should be prepared to buy at that price. Bring a mix of small bills so that you can pay in exact change.

Chile

Among Chilean goods, the excellent textiles are worth perusing. For “typical” items, colorful hand-woven ponchos are a good buy, as well as vicuna rugs, and—although perhaps a little heavy for air travel—there is excellent artisan copper work. Chilean stones have achieved much popularity abroad, and there are many “rock shops” in the city and suburbs selling quality work in lapis lazuli, Chilean jade, amethyst, agate, onyx, and others. Salmon, canned and smoked, is also a good buy.

Bargaining: In Chile, shops generally have fixed prices. In places other than shops (like markets), you may be able to bargain. The only rule is that if you make an offer, you should be prepared to buy at that price. Bring a mix of small bills so that you can pay in exact change.

Brazil

Brazil is a shopping bonanza. Traditional handicrafts like wooden carvings, masks, ceremonial figures in wood or clay, and handmade lace or textiles complete for your attention with modern brands like Havaianas flip-flops, and Granado beauty products. To make your own caipirinha cocktails at home, bring back a bottle of the local sugarcane liquor called cachaca. Or for a non-alcoholic option, chose a bag of Brazilian coffee. Other items for sale include soccer memorabilia and props for the yearly carnival festival.

U.S. Customs Regulations & Shipping Charges

For all things related to U.S. Customs, the ultimate authority is the U.S. Bureau of Customs & Border Protection. Their website, www.cbp.gov has the answers to the most frequently asked questions. Or you can call them at **1-877-227-5511**.

The top three points to know are:

- At time of writing, your personal duty-free allowance is \$800 for items brought with you. Items totaling more than \$800 are subject to duty fees.
- **Items shipped home are always subject to duty when received in the U.S.** Even when the shop has offered to include shipping and duties in the price, this typically means shipping to the nearest customs facility and payment of the export duties—not door-to-door shipping or payment of the import duties. All additional duties or shipping charges would be your

responsibility. Unless an item is small enough to send by parcel service (like FedEx), chances are you will need to arrange shipping or pick-up once the item is in the U.S. and will need to pay customs duties.

- It is illegal to import products made from endangered animal species. U.S. Customs & Border Protection will seize these items, as well as most furs, coral, tortoise shell, reptile skins, feathers, plants, and items made from animal skins.

Agricultural Statement for Chile

Like some parts of the U.S. such as California and Hawaii, Chile severely restricts the entry of agricultural products to protect against the accidental transport of pests. Chile's requirements are very strictly enforced and incur large fines for violation. If you are arriving in Chile by air, we advise you to discard any fruit, nuts, vegetables, seeds, dairy products including cheese, flowers (including dried flowers), or unprocessed meats before landing.

If you are arriving by air, the flight attendants will distribute an Agricultural Products form that you must complete. On this form you'll be asked to declare whether or not you are bringing any fruits, nuts, or other organic products into Chile. If you are carrying any items of this nature, you must declare them on this form. Fines of up to \$200 could result if customs officers find even a simple pack of peanuts or an apple.

DEMOGRAPHICS & HISTORY

Argentina

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 1,073,518 square miles
- **Capital:** Buenos Aires
- **Languages:** Spanish is the official language. English is widely spoken in major cities and tourist centers.
- **Location:** Argentina is bordered by Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Uruguay, and Chile
- **Geography:** Located in the South and West Hemisphere, Argentina features a diverse landscape ranging from the ice fields of Patagonia to the fertile pampas to the Andes Mountains.
- **Government Type:** Republic
- **Population:** 46,044,703 (Estimate)
- **Religions:** Roman Catholic 92%, Protestant 2%, Jewish 2%, other 4%.
- **Time Zone:** Argentina time (ART) is 3 hours behind Coordinated Universal Time. Generally Argentina is 1 hour ahead of Eastern Time in the U.S. So usually, when it is 6am in Washington D.C. it is 7am in Buenos Aires. But Argentina doesn't use daylight saving time like the U.S. does, so from November to March there is a 2 hour difference—6am in D.C. is 8am in Buenos Aires.

National Holidays: Argentina

In addition to the holidays listed below, Argentina celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Carnival, Holy Friday, and Easter. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

03/24 Memorial Day

04/02 Day of the Veterans

05/01 Labor Day / May Day

05/25 National Day/May 1810 Revolution

06/20 Flag Day

07/09 Independence Day

3rd Monday in August General San Martin Day

2nd Monday in October Colombus Day

12/08 Feast of the Immaculate Conception

12/25 Christmas Day

Argentina: A Brief History

Little is known about societies that occupied prehistoric Argentina, though fossil records indicate a presence in the region of today's Patagonia as early as 11,000 B.C. The Spanish arrived in Argentina early in the 16th century and would rule the country for the next 300 years. Spain's grip on Argentina began to loosen during events that began in 1806, when the British overpowered Spanish military forces in Buenos Aires and attacked the Malvinas Islands (later known as the Falkland Islands). When word arrived in Argentina that Napoleon had conquered cities in Spain and overthrown the Spanish king, the people of Argentina were inspired to rule themselves, which brought about independence in 1816.

With the help of an influx of immigrants late in the 19th century, Argentina's economy began gathering strength. Its continued growth in the initial decades of the 20th century was often at the expense of the working class. Juan Perón, who was elected president in 1946, recognized the plight of workers and sought to empower them by increasing union membership and expanding social and educational programs. When Argentina's economy declined in the early 1950s, he became increasingly authoritarian. After the death of his first lady in 1952, the charismatic Eva "Evita" Perón whom the workers loved, Juan began losing support and was eventually overthrown in a violent coup in 1955. Forced into exile by the military, Juan Perón fled to Paraguay and then settled in Spain in 1960.

Continuing to wield influence from afar, Perón returned to power in 1973 in a special election, with his new wife Isabel, an Argentinian dancer he married in 1961, becoming his vice president. But Juan's return was short-lived when he died in 1974, which resulted in Isabel becoming Argentina's new president—someone who was resented by millions of Argentinians still devoted to Evita. With the country now entering a downward spiral due to the Arab oil embargo and other factors, Isabel was deposed in a military coup in 1976. The right-wing military junta that took power ruled Argentina brutally for the next several years, killing some 20,000–30,000 revolutionaries or sympathizers. The country's downward spiral continued, and after Argentina lost the Falklands War (in Spanish, the *Guerra de las Malvinas*) to the British in 1982, the military's credibility was finished, leading to the next free elections.

While the decades that followed military rule have seen Argentina's fortunes rise and fall dramatically, the country's hard-won democracy has endured.

Events that Shaped the 20th Century:

Argentina's Dirty War Against Socialism

When Vice President Isabel Peron succeeded her husband, Juan Peron, as the Argentinian President following his death in 1974, she inherited a country in turmoil. As the less-liked third wife of the well-loved Juan Peron, the former dancer faced many challenges she was not prepared for, including skyrocketing inflation, party in-fighting, and terrorism.

Isabel managed to hold her office for almost two years, however, establishing authoritarian laws that slowly stole away the rights of the Argentinian people and purging leftist-minded politicians from positions of power. Her main advisor, Lopez Rega, was known for his fascist ideals and his right-wing paramilitary force, the Argentine Anticommunist Alliance (Triple A), which claimed responsibility for over 300 murders by the end of 1974.

Isabel was removed from her position in a military coup on March 24, 1976, and Argentina spend the next seven years under a civic-military dictatorship, led by Jorge Rafael Videla, Emilio Eduardo Massera, Roberto Eduardo Viola, and Leopoldo Galtieri, who graduated from the controversial U.S. Army School of the Americas where they were taught anti-communist counterinsurgency training, including the use of torture. Those years were known as the National Reorganization Process, or the "Dirty War".

Under the Videla regime, the Triple A were given carte blanche to hunt down and kill political dissidents in death squads, specifically targeting anyone associated with socialism and leftist activism. This list included high school and university students, writers, journalists, trade unionists, artists, and militants, who were believed to be associated with guerilla leftist groups, such as the Montoneros.

Over the course of seven years, a Dirty War was waged between the National Reorganization Process and the leftist guerilla groups, with thousands of civilians caught in-between. In the Night of the Pencils, on September 16, 1976, 10 high school students were kidnapped by agents of the Videla regime and tortured for information about the Montoneros. Most of the missing students taken were likely executed, with only four surviving to testify against their torturers.

As leftist guerrilla groups continued to assassinate politicians and commit acts of terror, the Videla regime became more determined to stamp out the threat, with "enforced disappearances" (almost 30,000 people, including young students, were secretly taken, tortured for information, and killed) and "death flights" (where dissidents, many of them people who were secretly taken, were drugged then loaded onto an aircraft and thrown to their deaths while in flight over the Atlantic). In response to the 30,000 missing, the Mothers of the Plaza, a group of mothers who had lost children and grandchildren to the Dirty War, began a decades-long campaign to call attention to the plight of the desaparecidos ("disappeared persons") and bring the murderers of their children to justice.

The actions of the regime were supported by the United States government at the time, with the Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, congratulating the regime for their efforts against terrorism and expressing his approval of their methods. Under the Ford administration, and with Kissinger's support, the United States government provided \$80 million in security assistance and military aid to the regime. This support continued into the Carter administration until September 1978, when the aid was stopped under section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act, prohibiting security assistance, including arms sales, to any country the government of which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights

The regime fell apart under heavy public disapproval, with the military defeat in the Falkland Islands in 1982, when Argentina failed to seize the land from the United Kingdom, taking away the last of the military's credibility. When free elections were allowed once more, Argentina elected Raúl Alfonsín, who, within days of taking office, initiated cases against the leaders of the civic-military dictatorship, as well as the leftist guerilla groups. While he allowed the lower ranks of the military to claim "command responsibility" as they were just following orders, most of the military leaders were tried and sentenced for crimes against humanity and genocide.

The military leaders of the National Reorganization Process were later pardoned by Alfonsín's successor, President Carlos Menem, in 1990.

Chile

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 291,933 square miles
- **Capital:** Santiago
- **Languages:** Spanish
- **Location:** Chile is bordered by Bolivia, Peru, and Argentina
- **Geography:** One third of Chile is covered by the Andes. Five distinct geographical regions make up the country: the Northern Desert, the Central Valley, the Lake District, Patagonia in the south, and remote Easter Island 2,400 miles offshore in the Pacific.
- **Government Type:** Republic
- **Population:** 18,430,408 (Estimate)
- **Religions:** Roman Catholic 66.7%, Evangelical or Protestant 16.4%, Jehovah's Witness 1%, other 3.4% none 11.5%, unspecified 1.1%
- **Time Zone:** From roughly mid-September to mid-April, though it can vary year to year, Chile is on Chile Summer Time (CLST), two hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Standard Time (EST). When it is 6am in Washington D.C., it is 8am in Santiago. The rest of the year, Chile is on Chile Standard Time (CLT), 1 hour ahead of EST, and the exact same time as Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). Chile's seasons are opposite to those in the U.S., so just as we are starting daylight saving time, Chile is finishing it.

National Holidays: Chile

In addition to the holidays listed below, Chile celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter and Reformation Day. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/02 New Year's Continued

04/07 Holy Thursday

04/08 Holy Friday

05/01 Labor Day / May Day

05/21 Navy Day

6/29 Saint Peter and Saint Paul Day

07/16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel

08/15 Assumption of Mary

09/18 National Day

09/19 Army Day

2nd Monday in October Columbus Day

10/27 National Day of the Evangelical
& Protestant Churches

11/01 All Saints' Day

12/08 Immaculate Conception Day

12/25 Christmas Day

Chile: A Brief History

Evidence reveals that humans began populating Chile's fertile valleys between the Andes and the Pacific a little more than 10,000 years ago. But since it was surrounded on three sides by almost impenetrable barriers, these rich valleys remained relatively unknown to the outside world until the middle of the fifteenth century, when the Incas began their conquest of the continent. The Incas managed to conquer northern Chile but were prevented from advancing further by the indigenous Mapuche. But less than a century later Spanish *conquistadores* arrived from Peru in search of gold, and the conquest of Chile began. For the next four hundred years, much of Chile was under Spanish control—except for the Mapuche region in the south. Then, following seven years of warfare, Chile gained its independence from Spain in 1817. But the Mapuche-controlled south resisted the new Chilean government and remained autonomous until the middle of the century.

While Chile's independence initiated a system of representative democracy, its 20th-century political history has been marked by turmoil. Facing economic depression and mounting inflation, a Marxist government came to power under Salvador Allende in 1970—which led to a right-wing government seizing power three years later under General Augusto Pinochet (in a U.S.-backed coup where Allende was killed). Pinochet ruled for the next 17 years, a brutal dictatorship marked by terror, corruption, and human rights abuses. In 1990, having failed in his bid to gain popular ratification for his rule, Pinochet handed over the presidency to the rightfully elected Patricio Aylwin Azocar. Chile's political climate has since remained stable, although there is still considerable tension between the military and the government concerning the human rights violations of the Pinochet era.

In 2006, Michelle Bachelet Jeria was elected President, becoming the first woman to hold Chile's highest office. Her policies helped Chile become the first South American member of the OECD (Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development). Despite record high approval ratings President Bachelet stepped down at the end of her term in March 2010, however, as Chile's constitution forbids the immediate re-election of a president. She was succeeded in office by Sebastian Pinera, whose first order of business was recovering from a large earthquake that occurred off the coast on February 27, 2010. Just as Chile was getting back on its feet, a mining accident in August of 2010 brought international attention back to the normally quiet country. A cave-in at the San Jose mine in the Atacama Desert left 33 miners trapped underground for a record 69 days. It is estimated that nearly one billion people worldwide tuned in for the daring and successful rescue operation, which was televised live around the globe. In 2014, Michelle Bachelet was reelected, followed by the reelection of Sebastian Pinera in 2018 to 2022. In 2022, Gabriel Boric was elected, becoming the youngest President in Chile's history.

Events That Shaped the 20th Century:

The 1973 Chilean Coup...or the other 9/11

As with most countries in South America, Chile was colonized by Spain during the 16th century, becoming part of the Spanish Empire. By the early 1800s, Chile had gained its independence and after many years of fluctuating stability and changing political systems, Chile finally settled on becoming a presidential republic in 1925. However, the modern political era really began in Chile by the 1930s, when political freedoms were extended and democracy was firmly backed by the constitution. By 1947, Chile saw a substantial amount of economic growth while elsewhere, the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union had started. Though the Cold War centered around an intense rivalry between the two current world powers, that did not stop the conflict from reaching Chile and other countries in South America.

Following the Cuban revolution in 1959, Fidel Castro managed to lead a successful revolt against the U.S.-backed military dictatorship of President Fulgencio Batista. As a result, Castro became the next prime minister of Cuba, further challenging the hegemony of the United States. As Castro's popularity grew throughout South America, U.S. leaders began to worry. Since Cuba was ideologically opposed to the U.S., American intelligence agencies kept a close eye on any potential revolutions occurring elsewhere, while the Soviet Union sought to expand their influence and looked for potential allies across the Atlantic. During Chile's 1970 presidential elections, primary candidate Salvador Allende, a member of the Socialist Party, won the popular vote against independent candidate Jorge Alessandri and Radomiro Tomic from the Christian Democratic Party. Given Allende's leftist beliefs and admiration for Castro, the U.S. government, in an attempt to prevent the further spread of socialism in the Western Hemisphere, was determined to undermine Allende's presidential campaign. Covert operations by the C.I.A and other organizations included propaganda and funding the campaigns of Allende's opposition.

But the \$8 million spent by the C.I.A apparently wasn't enough — and Allende emerged victorious. The elections were especially important to the U.S. due to their interests in several industries, including Chile's profitable copper mines, which were all owned by American companies. As the new president of Chile, Salvador Allende began to implement his socialist ideals. Some of his main

reforms included government health care, redistribution of farmland, and the nationalization of Chile's copper industry, which at the time was owned and controlled by the U.S. government. Citizens who lived in the rural areas of Chile welcomed Allende's reforms since they were aimed at improving their standards of living. At first many of Allende's policies, especially ones geared towards the nationalization of certain sectors, were very popular and received praise from most citizens. By 1972 however, the economy began suffering due to rapidly increasing inflation.

The main source of the destabilization of the Chile's economy was the result of America's foreign policy under the Nixon administration. The U.S. worked to destabilize Allende's government by using its economic clout, which included organizing protests accompanied by media propaganda and the freezing of international loans to Chile. The tactics proved successful, as inflation continued to rise in Chile, many stores went out of business, worker strikes increased, and Allende's popularity began to wane.

By 1973, the Chilean economy was in shambles. President Allende still had the support of workers and peasants though members of the middle class joined together to oppose him. During this time, open discussions of an impending military coup led by conspirators were put in motion and heavily supported by the C.I.A. The economic turmoil in Chile came to a head, on September 11th 1973, when the military junta led by general Augusto Pinochet launched an attack on the Chilean government. Allende, along with his presidential guards, quickly retreated to La Moneda, the presidential palace. Though tanks and troops began to surround La Moneda, Allende refused to surrender. In his final moments, he was able to broadcast a farewell speech on Radio Magallanes, a Communist Party radio station, relaying one final message to the citizens of Chile:

"Workers of my country, I have faith in Chile and its destiny. Other men will overcome this dark and bitter moment when treason seeks to prevail. Go forward knowing that, sooner rather than later, the great avenues will open again where free men will walk to build a better society."

Around noon, fighter jets flew over La Moneda and fired rockets through the doors and windows of the palace. Though the palace was engulfed in flames, it is believed that Allende somehow managed to escape to a wing of the building where he ultimately ended up taking his own life. Following the aftermath of the coup, General Augusto Pinochet became the dictator of Chile, ruling over an increasingly repressive and authoritarian regime. After the military takeover, supporters of Allende were tracked down and either imprisoned or killed.

The U.S. recognized the government of Pinochet, providing it with military support. In a pattern that would repeat itself in democratic America, it was better to support military dictators like Pinochet than to support a democratically elected left-wing socialist like Allende. Pinochet would continue to rule over Chile for the next 17 years until he was succeeded by Patricio Aylwin in 1990. At the time, Chile had adopted economic policies of liberalization and privatization, which helped the Chilean economy outperform the economies of other countries in Latin America. This in turn, helped pave the way for democracy to return to Chile.

Brazil

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 3,286,470 square miles
- **Capital:** Brasilia
- **Languages:** Portuguese is the official language; English is also spoken
- **Ethnicity:** White 47.7%, biracial 43.1%, black 7.6%, Asian 1.1%, indigenous 0.4%
- **Location:** Brazil is bordered by Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, French Guiana, Guyana 1, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela.
- **Geography:** Brazil is geographically divided into highlands and plateaus in the south and the Amazon River Basin in the north.
- **Population:** 210,147,125 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Roman Catholic 64.6%, other Catholic 0.4%, Protestant 22.2% (includes Adventist 6.5%, Assembly of God 2.0%, Christian Congregation of Brazil 1.2%, Universal Kingdom of God 1.0%, other Protestant 11.5%), other Christian 0.7%, Spiritism 2.2%, other 1.4%, none 8%, unspecified 0.4%
- **Time Zone:** Brazil has four time zones. When it is 6am in Washington D.C., it is 7am in Rio de Janeiro.

National Holidays: Brazil

In addition to the holidays listed below, Brazil celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter, Carnival, and Corpus Christi To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

04/21 Tiradentes Day

05/01 Labor Day / May Day

09/07 Independence Day

10/12 Our Lady Aparecida / Children's Day

11/02 All Souls Day

11/15 Republic Proclamation Day

12/25 Christmas

Brazil: A Brief History

Modern day Brazil was inhabited as far back as 8,000 years ago by migrating hunters who traveled from Asia by land or coastal sea routes. The Portuguese, who eventually settled much of this land, did not arrive until the 15th century. Motivated by competition with Spain, and inspired by advances in navigation, Portugal first sailed toward Brazil in search of a path to the Far East. They were granted land rights below a north-south line through an agreement with Spain known

as the Treaty of Tordesillas. An expedition commanded by Pedro Alvares Cabral then formally claimed the land on behalf of the King of Portugal. Brazil was finally settled in 1532 by São Vicente. Later, a system of twelve “captaincies” united it under Tome de Souza.

As the new colony began to prosper, interest grew from other European countries. In 1630, the Dutch occupied the northeast, and the city of Recife flourished under Count Maurits, but the Dutch were eventually driven out. Settlement in Brazil remained heavy on the east coast until a boom beckoned people from all over the country to move inland in search of gold and, later, diamonds. A group of bandeirantes (colonial scouts) pushed west in search of riches and slaves; they established outposts where many of today’s Brazilian cities still exist.

Throughout the next two centuries, Portugal benefited from Brazil’s prosperity through a series of taxes and restrictions that were common for the time. In 1788, Jose da Silva Xavier led an unsuccessful movement for independence from these practices. That independence came years later, after Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Portugal and the Portuguese royal family fled to Brazil. When the war was over and they returned home, their son, Pedro, declared independence and later became Emperor of Brazil. He later abdicated to his five-year-old son, Dom Pedro II, who officially took over at the age of 15 and led Brazil through a period of progress and expansion. After freeing all slaves in Brazil in 1888, Dom Pedro II was overthrown in favor of a new republican government.

The Republic saw Brazil through World War I and the Great Depression, but was overthrown by a military junta. Getulio Vargas outlawed the elected government and replaced it with the Estado Novo. Vargas instituted nationalist policies, developing the country’s vast resources and uniting Brazil with the Allies during World War II. After Vargas, a series of military-appointed presidents followed until 1985, when a civilian was again elected to the presidency. Brazil then entered a period of economic prosperity and, in 1989, returned to a democratic government with the election of Fernando Collor de Mello (often simply referred to as “Collor”).

Unfortunately, the election did not result in the political stability that Brazilians had hoped for. In 1994, a former Minister of the Treasury, Fernando Henrique Cardoso was elected president. President Cardoso’s administration put a strong emphasis on improving Brazil’s economy and reaching out the international community at large. Despite some setbacks, he was re-elected in 1998, and managed to somewhat control the rampant inflation that had been an issue for Brazil in the past. Lula was re-elected for a second term, and in 2009 was faced with his biggest challenge: the world financial crisis. Although the Brazilian economy was impacted, certain tax measures and investments in industry and manufacturing helped the country bounce back. In 2010 Dilma Rousseff was elected as Brazil’s first female president; one of her first challenges was preparing the country to be a host of both the World Cup Finals (in 2014) and the Summer Olympics (in 2016). She has also instituted new programs designed to reduce poverty, especially childhood poverty. Rousseff was charged with criminal administrative misconduct and disregard for the federal budget during her second term and suspended on April 17th, 2016, with her Vice President Michel Temer taking over her duties as Acting President until her formal impeachment on August 31st, 2016. In the 2018 elections, Jair Bolsonaro, the first president of the Republic to graduate from the Armed Forces since the end of the Military Regime, was elected. That same year, during the Senate elections, Rousseff ran for office in Minas Gerais. She placed fourth.

Bolsonaro's policies focused on domestic issues, including recovery from the 2014 economic crisis. While the economy recovered slowly under Bolsonaro, his other policies caused controversy, notably his decisions to remove protections for Indigenous groups, facilitate the deforestation of the Amazon Rainforest, and downplaying the lethal consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, Bolsonaro lost re-election to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who previously served as the 35th president of Brazil. Bolsonaro and his supporters claimed the vote was invalid and attempted a coup, storming federal buildings.

For his part in the attempt, the Superior Electoral Court banned Bolsonaro for attempting for re-election again until 2030. President Lula, since he was instated in office on January 1st 2023, has pushed for peace in the Russian invasion of Ukraine and has pledged to end illegal logging and minimize the deforestation of the Amazon Rainforest.

RESOURCES

Suggested Reading

Argentina

The Ministry of Special Cases by Nathan Englander (2009, Historical Fiction) Set in Buenos Aires's Jewish community during the 1970s, the author's well-received first novel blends a family story with the tragic "dirty war"—a time when citizens were made to disappear.

False Calm: A Journey Through the Ghost Towns of Patagonia by Maria Sonia Cristoff (2005, Non-fiction) Although the author left her tiny, remote town in Patagonia, she later returned to interview the people who stayed. Part memoir, part reporting, and part travelogue this beautifully written book gives you a great sense of the isolation of Patagonia.

And the Money Kept Rolling In (and Out) by Paul Blustein (2005, Economics/History) A currency crisis isn't usually a page-turner. But Blustein manages to do just that while he digs into what role the World Bank, the IMF and Wall Street played in the spectacular collapse of Argentina's economy in 2001.

Enduring Patagonia by Gregory Crouch (2001, Non-fiction) This is the gripping true adventure story that documents the successes and failures of seven climbing expeditions in the Patagonian Andes.

Evita: The Real Life of Eva Peron by Nicholas Fraser and Marysa Navarro (1996, Biography) Considered to be one of the best-researched and most balanced accounts of the woman behind the myth.

Chile

The House of the Spirits*, *Daughter of Fortune*, and *Portrait in Sepia by Isabel Allende (2015–2020, Literature) Three books by one of Chile's most accomplished authors. *The House of the Spirits* follows the passionate ups and downs of four generations; *Portrait in Sepia* is a novel about memory and secrets as a woman attempts to trace her family history; and *Daughter of Fortune* is about a young woman from Chile who follows her heart to the California gold rush.

Deep Down Dark by Hector Tobar (2015, Non-fiction) In 2010, the world was gripped by the news reports of 33 miners trapped for 69 days below the surface—this is their story.

The Dictator's Shadow: Life Under Augusto Pinochet by Heraldo Munoz (2008, Biography/History) Recounts the many terrifying acts of Chile's former dictator, his rise to power, and what it took to be rid of him.

Easter Island by Jennifer Vanderbes (2004, Fiction) The novel has two intertwined stories—one set in 1913 just before the outbreak of World War I and one in the 1970s—both featuring a heroine of her time.

The Essential Neruda by Pablo Neruda (2004, Poetry) Chile's famous poet printed several volumes during his lifetime—all worthwhile—but this edition is a good introduction to his best-known works.

Brazil

Brazil by Michael Palin (2012, Travel Narrative) What would it be like to travel Brazil with a cultured and funny travel enthusiast who happened to be a member of the famed British comedy group Monty Python? This book tells you.

Brazil: Five Centuries of Change by Thomas E. Skidmore (2009, 2nd Ed., History) It's hard to condense 500 years of history into roughly 250 pages, but this useful volume on Brazil's colonial history and post-independence era mostly succeeds. (For more recent history, you could pick up ***The New Brazil*** by Riordan Roett or ***The Throes of Democracy: Brazil*** since 1989 by Bryan McCann.)

Brazil by Errol Lincoln Uys (2000, Literature) A massive and sweeping historical novel that follows the lives of two families across multiple generations, set against the backdrop of historical Brazil. Reminiscent of Alex Haley's *Roots* or *Shogun* by James Clavell, but this time set in South America.

The Brazilians by Joseph Page (1995, Culture) A useful review of how Brazil's people, history, economy and politics have shaped its modern-day culture.

Suggested Films & Videos

Argentina

Operation Finale (2018, Drama/History) In 1960, Israeli spies travel to Argentina to undertake a daring mission to capture notorious Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann and bring him to justice.

Blessed by Fire (2005, Drama) A film about the Falklands War (Malvinas War) and its aftermath, as told from the point of view of an Argentinean soldier looking back at his experiences two decades later. In Spanish with subtitles.

The Motorcycle Diaries (2004, Biopic) This nicely done coming-of-age film follows a 23-year-old Che Guevara (played by Mexican actor Gael Garcia Bernal) and his friend Alberto Granado (played by Argentine actor Rodrigo de la Serna) on a motorcycle journey across South America. Spanish with subtitles.

The Official Story (1985, Drama) As Alicia searches for more information about her adopted daughter's birth mother, she begins to uncover the history and extent of "the Disappeared"—political prisoners held captive by Argentina's ruling military government. In Spanish with subtitles.

Chile

No (2012, Drama). Set in the 1980s and based on an unpublished play by Antonio Skarmeta, this Chilean drama explores the role of advertising in General Augusto Pinochet's campaign for re-election. The film has been highly praised for its dark humor and cynical take on modern democracy but received mixed reviews in Chile.

Missing (1982, Drama). When an expat writer living in Chile during the 1973 coup goes missing, his wife and father-in-law (played by Jack Lemmon) must navigate complex and dangerous political waters to search for him. A gripping portrayal directed by Costa-Gavras.

The Battle of Chile (1975–1979, Documentary). A three-part documentary series about the 1973 coup d'état that deposed President Salvador Allende and raised General Augusto Pinochet to power. Unique in that it was filmed over four years in Chile as events were unfolding.

Brazil

The Mechanism (2018, Political Drama) Netflix TV Show, loosely based on true events. A scandal erupts in Brazil during an investigation of alleged government corruption via oil and construction companies.

Favela Rising (2005, Documentary) A documentary about the work of Anderson Sa, a reformed drug trafficker who formed a non-profit group that promotes music and education in the favelas (shantytowns) of Brazil.

City of God (2003, Foreign) The film follows a group of friends from the 1960s through the 80s as they grow up in a Brazilian shantytown—ironically named “the City of God”. The film deals frankly with violence, drugs, poverty, and other topics that can be hard to watch, but was considered an instant classic by critics. The original title is Cidade de Deus.

The Mission (1986, Historical Drama) This visually stunning period drama (with Robert De Niro) is about a group of Jesuits trying to convert indigenous tribes by Iguassu Falls. But suddenly, everything they have worked for is thrown into disarray when the land their mission stands on goes from being Spanish territory to Portuguese.

Useful Websites

Overseas Adventure Travel

www.oattravel.com

Overseas Adventure Travel Frequently Asked Questions

www.oattravel.com/faq

International Health Information/CDC (Centers for Disease Control)

www.cdc.gov/travel

Electricity & Plugs

www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets

Foreign Exchange Rates

www.xe.com/currencyconverter
www.oanda.com/converter/classic

ATM Locators

www.mastercard.com/atm
www.visa.com/atmlocator

World Weather

www.intellicast.com
www.weather.com
www.wunderground.com

Basic Travel Phrases (80 languages)

www.travlang.com/languages

Packing Tips

www.travelite.org

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

www.cbp.gov/travel

Transportation Security

Administration (TSA)

www.tsa.gov

National Passport Information Center

www.travel.state.gov

Holidays Worldwide

www.timeanddate.com/holidays

History & Culture

en.wikipedia.org

Useful Apps

Flight Stats

Track departures, arrivals, and flight status

LoungeBuddy

Get access to premium airport lounges around the world

Timeshifter

Personalized tips for avoiding jetlag, based on neuroscience and your own data

GoogleMaps

Maps and directions anywhere in the world

Triposo

City guides, walking maps, and more – and it works offline

Rome2rio

Where to go, what to see, and what to do in more than 160 countries

Flush or Sit or Squat

Find a clean toilet anywhere

Uber

Ride sharing around the world

Visa Plus and Mastercard Cirrus

ATM locations

Shows the location of the nearest ATM in your network

TunnelBear

Provides a secure VPN (virtual private network) that will encrypt your browsing data when you use a public WiFi network

What's App, Skype, or Signal

WiFi calling anywhere in the world

Duolingo, FLuentU, or Babbel

Learn dozens of foreign languages

Google Translate

Fast and simple translations

XE

Currency conversions

SizeGuide

Clothing and shoe sizes in all countries

Best Units Converter

Converts currency, mileage, weights, and many other units of measurement

Tourlina

For women only, it connects you with other female travelers

Happy Cow

Locate vegan and vegetarian eateries in 195 countries

Eatwith

Dine with locals all over the world

Meetup

Connects you with locals who share your interests

Skyview

Identifies constellations and heavenly bodies

Travello

Find travel friends on the road

ALIX for One

Created by and for women, it identifies solo-friendly dining spots in major international cities

TripWhistle

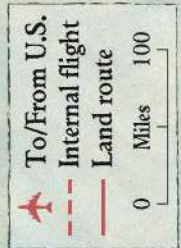
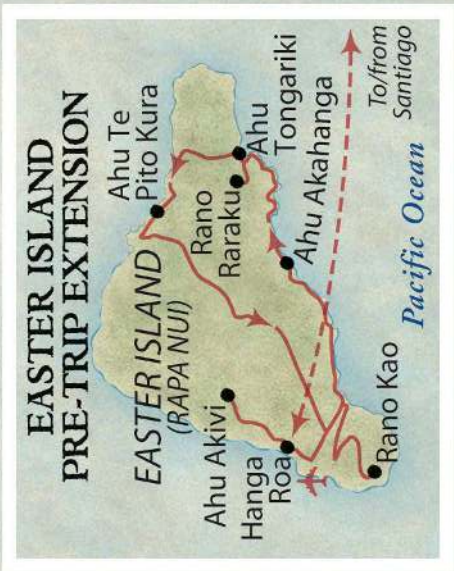
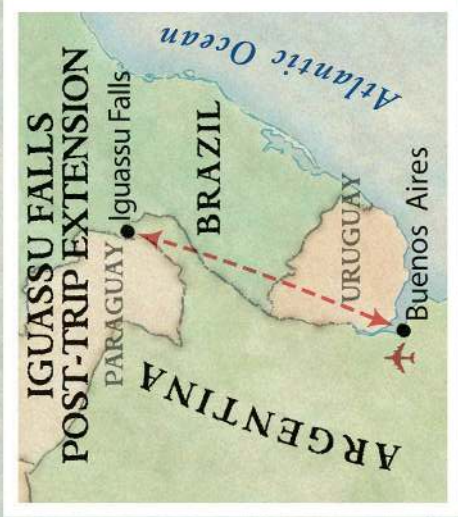
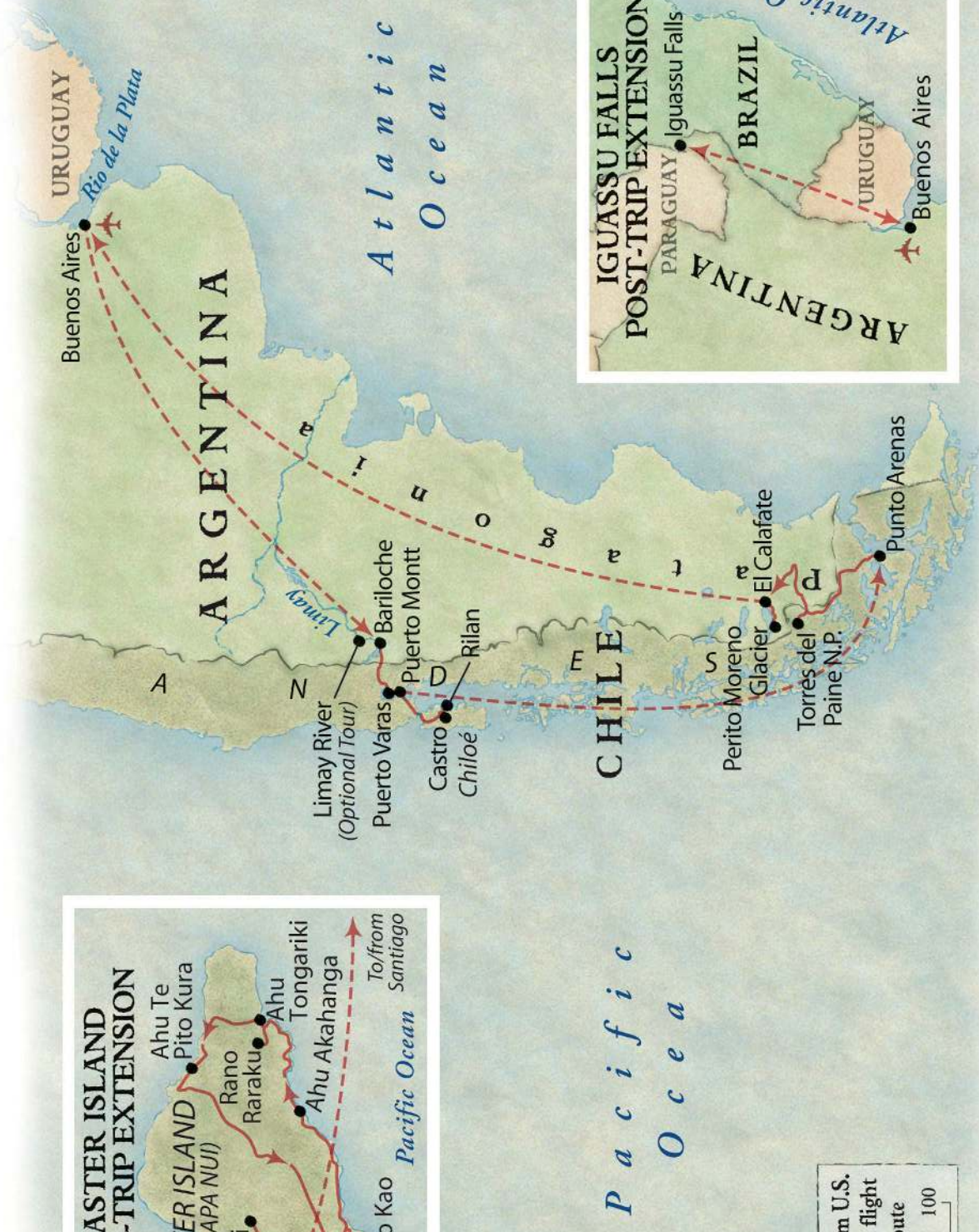
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Chirpey

For women only, connect with other women, find out what's safe, meet up, and more



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Submitted by Joy and Don Janke,
8-time travelers from Stevensville, MI



Submitted by Julia Schneider,
5-time traveler from Pinellas Park, FL



Submitted by Martin Schwartzman,
30-time traveler from Woodbury, NY



Submitted by Paul Stark, 17-time traveler
from Edina, MN



Submitted by David Fong, 16-time traveler
from Foster City, CA



Submitted by Steven dos Remedios,
23-time traveler from Oakland, CA



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