

Overseas Adventure Travel®

THE LEADER IN CUSTOMIZED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES SINCE 1978

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



The Wilderness Beyond: Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego
& the Chilean Fjords

2026

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 customize 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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Torres del Paine, Chile

The Wilderness Beyond: Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego & the Chilean Fjords Small Group Adventure

Argentina: Buenos Aires, El Calafate, Perito Moreno Glacier, Ushuaia | **Chile:** Torres del Paine, Puerto Natales, Beagle Channel, Glacier Alley, Cape Horn, 4-night Chilean Fjord Cruise

Small groups of no more than 25 travelers, guaranteed

15 days starting from \$8,195

including international airfare

Single Supplement: **FREE**

For departure dates & prices, visit www.oattravel.com/mau2026pricing

Explore the dramatic landscapes of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. By land, discover Perito Moreno Glacier and encounter the fauna of Torres del Paine during an overnight stay. Cruise for four nights aboard the shared charter, **210-passenger M/V *Stella Australis* or M/V *Ventus Australis***, through the Chilean fjords and the Strait of Magellan, and take in the fabled southern tip of South America—Cape Horn.

IT'S INCLUDED

- 13 nights accommodation, including 4 nights aboard the shared charter, 210-passenger M/V *Stella Australis* or M/V *Ventus Australis*
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- All land transportation and 2 internal flights
- 33 meals: 13 breakfasts, 9 lunches, and 11 dinners—including one Home-Hosted Dinner
- 12 guided tours and cultural experiences, plus all shore excursions
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers, ship crew, and luggage porters
- 5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next trip

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

The Wilderness Beyond: Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego & the Chilean Fjords



ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAYS	DESTINATION
1	Depart U.S.
2-3	Buenos Aires, Argentina
4-5	Fly to El Calafate
6-7	Torres del Paine, Chile
8	Puerto Natales
9-12	Embark ship • Cruise Chilean Fjords
13	Ushuaia, Argentina • Disembark ship
14	Fly to Buenos Aires
15	Return to U.S.

WHAT TO EXPECT

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Moderate

Pacing: 7 locations with 4 nights onboard a 210-passenger small ship in 14 days

Physical Requirements: Walk 3 miles unassisted on rough terrain and participate in 6-8 hours of physical activities each day. All activities on Days 5 through 12 take place in the wild; you may be exposed to winds up to 44 miles per hour, with occasional gusts up to 56 miles per hour. Activities on Day 12 (or Day 6 on the reverse itinerary) include Zodiac landings, 160 steps up, a 2-mile walk at Cape Horn, and a 3-mile walk uphill at Wulaia Bay.

Agility and balance are required for boarding and riding in Zodiacs.

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

PATAGONIA: THE O.A.T. DIFFERENCE

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

People-to-People Experiences: Enjoy several unique opportunities to share meals with locals—like savoring a traditional Patagonian BBQ when you meet the workers at Pingo Salvaje ranch near Torres del Paine and experience the *gaucho* lifestyle. Plus, you'll enjoy a **Home-Hosted Dinner** in Buenos Aires, as well as sitting down to eat with a local family in Ushuaia.

O.A.T. Exclusives: Engage in two **Controversial Topics** with people who can best speak to them. You'll learn about the "disappeared" citizens of Argentina's Dirty War with a local filmmaker in Buenos Aires and discuss the treatment of Argentine soldiers before and after the Falkland War with a local veteran.

CUSTOMIZE YOUR ADVENTURE

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Santiago & Easter Island's Sacred Sites

PRE-TRIP: 6 nights from **\$3,495**

Iguassu Falls: Thundering Cascades of Argentina & Brazil

POST-TRIP: 4 nights from **\$1,495**

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 **\$180** per room, per night
- Arrive early in **Buenos Aires** before your main adventure from **\$190** per room, per night

The Wilderness Beyond: Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego & the Chilean Fjords

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 Santiago, Chile

Day 3 Explore Santiago

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

Day 5 Discover *moai* at Ahu Tongariki & Anakena Beach

Day 6 Visit Ahu Akivi • Sunset at Tahai Beach

Day 7 Fly to Santiago

Day 8 Fly to Buenos Aires

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Depart today on your flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Day 2 Arrive in Buenos Aires, Argentina

- Destination: Buenos Aires
- Accommodations: Arc Recoleta Boutique Hotel or similar

Morning: You'll arrive in Argentina this morning. Your O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader or an O.A.T. representative will meet you and assist with the transfer to our hotel, where you'll join your traveling companions, including those who've taken the 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 will be happy to point you in the direction of local favorites. Perhaps you'd like to try a bite of *chorizo*, a spicy and smoky sausage which is a popular lunch option in Argentina.

Afternoon: Settle in and enjoy the amenities of the hotel for a few hours before re-convening with your small group and Trip Experience Leader for a Welcome Briefing.

After the briefing concludes, join a tango lesson with a local instructor who was born and raised in Buenos Aires. Then, we'll embark on an orientation walk with our Trip Experience Leader to become better acquainted with the area immediately around our hotel. As we explore the neighborhood, you'll notice the ample cafés, bars, and restaurants within a five-minute walk.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend some of the restaurants spotted on your orientation walk. Perhaps you'll be in the mood to visit a *parrilla* for grilled Argentinean beef, or an *empanadas* stand for a quick bite.

Evening: You may choose to stroll around Buenos Aires' lively neighborhoods following dinner, perhaps seeking out a nightcap at one of the bars you passed earlier. Or retire to your room early to rest up for the discoveries ahead.

Day 3 Buenos Aires • Controversial Topic: The “Disappeared” of Argentina’s “Dirty War” • Home-Hosted Dinner

- Destination: Buenos Aires
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Arc Recoleta Boutique Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Head out on a bus tour of Buenos Aires, an elegant mixture of Spanish Colonial architecture and several traditional European styles. Our tour includes a brief visit to the city's iconic, white *obelisco* (obelisk), which commemorates the 400th anniversary of Buenos Aires' founding.

We'll also visit Avenida de Mayo, which runs into Plaza de Mayo. Many buildings with important links to Argentinean history are centered in Plaza de Mayo, including the *Casa Rosada* (Government House), the Metropolitan Cathedral, and the *Cabildo*, the first City Hall built during Spanish rule. After a general overview of the country's history in the main square, we'll take a short walk over to a local café for a discussion 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. The discussion will be led by

either a local filmmaker with personal ties to these events or a local woman who experienced these atrocities firsthand and became a member of the NGO *Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo*, grandmothers of disappeared children looking to reunite them with their families.

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.

At the conclusion of our conversation, we'll drive to La Boca, the colorful working-class neighborhood where the *tango* was born.

Lunch: On your own. You may want to ask your Trip Experience Leader where you can find a traditional Argentinean pizza. A large number of Argentinians are of Italian descent, so pizzerias abound in Buenos Aires. They have a thick dough and extra mozzarella cheese, and are made in a wood-fire oven.

Afternoon: This afternoon is free for you to relax or make your own discoveries. Perhaps you'll visit the Evita Museum to learn about Eva Duarte's role as first lady, as well as her fight for women's rights.

Dinner: We'll split into smaller groups and depart for what may become the most memorable part of your visit to Buenos Aires: a **Home-Hosted Dinner** with a local family.

Upon arrival to the family's home—usually housing multiple generations under one roof—you'll be welcomed by our hosts and taken on a tour of their property. Then we'll take a seat at the family table. Perhaps you'll use what you learned today about the history and culture of Buenos Aires to engage your hosts in a discussion and discover their perspective on their home city. It's an evening seasoned with good conversation and fellowship.

Evening: After returning to our hotel, you are free to retire to your room for the evening or experience the lively nightlife of the Recoleta neighborhood.

Day 4 Fly to El Calafate, Patagonia

- Destination: El Calafate
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel Kosten Aike or similar

Activity Note: Today's transfer includes a flight of several hours (times vary by departure). Due to the nature of this adventure, flight times cannot be guaranteed. Please note that today's schedule is subject to change and could vary widely from what is provided below.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to the airport to catch a flight to El Calafate, Patagonia—a boomtown near Argentina's border with Chile. For 65 million years, the land here has been raised by chaotic volcanic eruptions and carved by massive glaciers, creating a series of jagged islands, interconnected fjords and channels, and mountainside glacial lakes. The area is named

for the indigenous calafate bush—locals say eating its berries will ensure your return to this mystical region.

Lunch: On your own, either at the airport or in El Calafate. Your Trip Experience Leader can provide recommendations based on your preferences.

Afternoon: Upon arrival in El Calafate, we'll transfer to our hotel. The rest of the afternoon is yours to unwind.

Prior to dinner, we'll join our Trip Experience Leader for an orientation walk around the vicinity of the hotel.

Dinner: Together, we'll make our way into a smaller neighborhood that's off the beaten track to enjoy dinner at a local's home. Perhaps you and your host will discuss how your experiences in the larger capital city of Buenos Aires compare to life, work, and leisure in this small but vibrant community.

Evening: After returning to our hotel, the rest of the evening is at your leisure.

Day 5 Los Glaciares National Park • Explore Perito Moreno Glacier • Optional wine tasting tour

- Destination: El Calafate
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Hotel Kosten Aike or similar

Activity Note: Today's excursion includes hikes along catwalks. Agility is required in order to participate.

Breakfast: Included at our hotel.

Morning: Embark on a full-day excursion to Los Glaciares National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. During our transfer to the

park, we'll learn about glaciers and the park's geology from our local guide, and also stop for wildlife spotting.

Created in 1937, 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 icecap (the largest continental ice extension after Antarctica) that begins in the Andes and occupies well over a third of the park's total area.

As we'll discover during our visit, the glaciers here are unique. Unlike other glaciers, which typically formed roughly 8,200 feet above sea level, the icy marvels at Los Glaciares formed much lower, at nearly 5,000 feet. The lower points of origin are a boon to visitors, as they offer unique access—both visually and physically—to glaciers.

Our small group will understand just how important this difference is when we encounter Perito Moreno Glacier, a pristine marvel towering nearly 200 feet above Lake Argentino. It is named after Francisco Moreno, a 19th-century Argentine explorer who helped resolve his country's border dispute with neighboring Chile.

During today's adventure, we may see the natural phenomenon of a glacier "calving." This means that smaller chunks of ice fracture and break off from the glacier—a "birthing" of icebergs that's usually accompanied by thunderous noises. The constant, cyclical movement of Perito Moreno's ice mass often forces the glacier to "calve." It's quite a spectacle, and can occur at any time, so we'll keep our fingers crossed that we'll be lucky enough to witness an iceberg calve.

Ice isn't the only thing we'll see today. Just east of the ice fields are areas of southern beech forest and windswept Patagonian steppes. As

we journey overland to and from Perito Moreno, we'll pass through scenic forests composed of *lengas* and *ñires* (Patagonian beech trees).

Lunch: Enjoy a boxed lunch in the park.

Afternoon: Our exploration of the park continues after lunch. You'll have the freedom to trek at your own pace and utilize the different hiking circuits to admire the Perito Monero Glacier from different angles.

We'll return to our hotel in the mid-afternoon, and the rest of the day is yours to do as you please. For a more physical option, take a bird watching hike at Laguna Nimez. Or, if you feel like you've hiked enough for one day, perhaps you'll visit the Glaciarium, a museum which explains the science of glaciers and the transformation of different glaciers in this area over the years. For an extra fee, you might visit the Glaciarium's atmospheric, neon-lit ice bar.

Or, you may join an optional tour to La Tienda de Vinos, a wine bar where we'll sample five regional vintages with a local sommelier who will provide their expertise.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner on your own tonight. Ask our Trip Experience Leader for suggestions in line with your appetite, or dine at the hotel. Perhaps you'll search for a cut of Patagonian lamb.

Evening: The evening is at leisure. If you'd like to continue to explore El Calafate, ask your Trip Experience Leader for walking directions to Bahia Redona Bay which offers scenic views of the Patagonian steppe and Lago Argentino Lake.

Day 6 Transfer to Chile • Overland to Torres del Paine National Park

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

Activity Note: Expect a bus transfer of about 10–12 hours today. There will be several stops en route, including a lunch break, and you will also change coaches at the Chilean border. Have your passport on-hand, as you will need it to cross into Chile.

Breakfast: Included at our hotel.

Morning: We'll travel by bus to Torres del Paine this morning, whose national park was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1978 and is renowned as one of the most remote, beautiful, and unspoiled places in the world. The landscape is rich and diverse in dramatic geological formations, which combine in several distinct ecosystems, from the wind-bent grasses of the plains to the sheer, frozen cliffs of the Andes. We make several stops along the way to learn about the landscapes and natural features of Patagonia.

Lunch: Upon arrival at the border into Chile, we will disembark for an included lunch at a local restaurant and to change buses.

Afternoon: Our drive to the park continues after lunch. Upon arrival, we'll tour the park by bus and benefit from the expertise of our Trip Experience Leader and local guide, who can share their knowledge of the park's flora and fauna along the way.

The park comprises about 935 square miles and is part of the Paine Massif, granite mountains that emerge suddenly from the plains of the Patagonian steppes and are capped by crumbly sedimentary rock that used to lie on the valley floor. This granite intrusion—one of the most recognizable mountain profiles in

the world—was formed about twelve million years ago, making the Paine Massif quite young geologically. Sedimentary rock and magma collided violently and were thrust high into the air. After the Ice Age, when the ice fields covering the base of the massif began to melt, ice, water, and wind carved the rock into huge towers of varying shapes, at heights up to 9,000 feet. Some of these are covered in permanent ice. At our level, the crushed rock and sediment colors the lakes in the park from a milky gray to yellows and greens and the dramatic blue. During our ride we'll make stops along the way for sightseeing and to take photos.

After our panoramic tour concludes, we'll make our way to our hotel.

Dinner: At the hotel's restaurant. Before we eat, we'll try our very first pisco sour, a cocktail of pisco liquor and citrus juices that locals love.

Evening: The evening is at leisure to enjoy the hotel's amenities.

Day 7 Explore Torres del Paine National Park

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

Activity Note: Agility is required for today's activities, which include a morning hike and an afternoon hike of two to three hours each. The terrain on these hikes is steep, uneven, and rocky, and can often be muddy. Hikes may vary according to weather conditions. Today's activities take place in a remote location with no medical facilities nearby.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll return to Torres del Paine after breakfast to pursue its myriad wonders on foot with an experienced guide. Our first hike of the day will take us to Salto Grande,

a scenic waterfall fed by the waters of Lake Nordenskjöld. As we hike, we'll see a wide variety of plants, and we may spot some of the local wildlife. The glaciers of the park are in quick retreat—up to 56 feet a year for the last 90 years, creating a remarkable study of soil creation and plant development from bare rock to thick forest. The flora of the park ranges from grassland to southern beech forests. Many parts of the park were too remote for the cattle and sheep ranchers, and so they exist today in a pristine state. Many species of mammals make their home in the park, including the *guanaco* and Patagonian gray fox. Some of the world's rarest bird species—the Andean condor and crested caracara among them—are found here as well.

Lunch: Enjoy a boxed lunch in the park.

Afternoon: The afternoon features a scenic hike to Laguna Larga, an ice-blue lake flanked by the park's iconic granite peaks.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: Enjoy a relaxing evening at your hotel. Perhaps you'll get to know your fellow travelers better over a Chilean cocktail at the hotel bar.

Day 8 Explore Torres del Paine • Ranch visit • Overland to Puerto Natales

- Destination: Puerto Natales
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel Costaustralis or similar

Activity Note: Agility is required for today's activities, which include a horseback ride of about an hour, as well as a morning hike and an afternoon hike of two to three hours each. The terrain on these hikes is steep, uneven, and rocky, and can often be muddy. Hikes may vary according to weather conditions. Today's activities take place in a remote location with no medical facilities nearby. Please note

that, due to the nature of this adventure, the schedule is subject to change and could vary widely from what is provided below.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll return to the park for a final time this morning and set off on foot for a hike around the banks of Lago Grey, a scenic lake fed by the icy waters of Grey Glacier. We'll enjoy a leisurely stroll through the surrounding woods, taking in the native flora and fauna as we make our way to the beach at the edge of the lake, where we'll be greeted by the powerful Patagonian wind across the water. We'll walk along the shore as we make our way to a scenic overlook on a peninsula, where we'll get a full panoramic view of the gleaming Grey Glacier.

Lunch: Enjoy a boxed lunch en route to a local ranch.

Afternoon: Upon arrival at the ranch this afternoon, 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 your hosts about their personal experience.

Next, we'll embark on a scenic journey on horseback through a sprawling valley adjacent to Laguna Sofia. We'll take in the landscape as we ride past babbling creeks, placid lake shores, snow-capped mountain peaks, and varied vegetation and wildlife. For this adventure, we'll be split into two groups, and will take turns riding.

When not riding, you are welcome to explore the area on foot with a local guide. You'll be led on a scenic path that will take you past a pristine lake and different plant varieties. You may engage your guide about what it's like to work in such a remote and beautiful location.

Dinner: Our small group will reconvene for a tasty, barbecue lamb dinner at the ranch.

Evening: We'll make our way to Puerto Natales this evening and check in to our hotel.

Day 9 Puerto Natales • Explore Punta Arenas • Embark ship

- Destination: Punta Arenas
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Stella Australis* or M/V *Ventus Australis*

Activity Note: This adventure includes long stretches of sailing, where rough sea conditions are possible. Please note that, during your cruise, all shore landings take place weather and sea conditions permitting. Today's activities take place in a remote location with no medical facilities nearby. The itinerary featured below is what we will strive to follow, but because of these unpredictable sailing conditions, all of the timing and landing details during the cruise portion of your trip are subject to change.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Your morning is at leisure in Puerto Natales. Perhaps you'll walk around the bay and visit the fishing harbor, or head downtown to take in the main square, lofty Parroquia Maria Auxiliadora church, and artwork inspired by Patagonian culture. Or relax at the hotel, admiring the panoramic views.

Lunch: At the hotel.

Afternoon: Following lunch, we'll drive to Punta Arenas, a bustling port overlooking the Strait of Magellan. On arrival, we'll take an orientation walk with our Trip Experience Leader and have some free time for exploring on our own. Perhaps you'll choose to explore the bay area, visit the monument to Ferdinand Magellan in the Plaza Munoz Gamero, or

browse the handcraft market for unique trinkets to take home with you for family and friends.

Late this afternoon, we'll head to the pier to board our 210-passenger vessel for a cruise on the legendary waters of the Strait of Magellan around Tierra del Fuego. Your expedition ship is designed for traversing Patagonia's fjords and plying the waters of this region.

Throughout your adventure onboard, you'll be with travelers from across the world in addition to your fellow O.A.T. travelers. The lounge is equipped with couches and chairs. A topside Sun Deck features ample deck chairs for admiring the scenery. The ship is also equipped with Zodiac crafts that will bring us closer to the region's natural splendors during excursions and landings. As we sail, this is where Expedition Team members will give lectures on topics like glaciology, natives, and the areas we visit.

Over the next four nights, we'll explore the channels and fjords that border the Tierra del Fuego archipelago, the mystical "Land of Fire" ... voyage through the Strait of Magellan and Beagle Channel, named for Charles Darwin's ship, which sailed through its waters in 1834 and encounter ancient glaciers on part of the Darwin mountain range. Our maritime cruising begins this evening, as our ship departs Punta Arenas and sails eastward through the Strait of Magellan toward Ainsworth Bay.

We'll attend a crew introduction and safety drill, then toast to the discoveries ahead as our ship sets sail.

Dinner: Join your fellow O.A.T. travelers in the dining room for your Captain's Welcome Dinner. There's no need to dress up, however some travelers choose to. Attire aboard your small ship is always comfortable and casual. Like most dinners, this will be a sit-down

meal, but a specialty cocktail or dish may also be served. We will have designated tables for our group. Please note that, throughout your voyage, dinners begin late by American standards, affording you more time for daytime exploration.

Evening: You have the remainder of the evening at leisure to unpack and settle in. Or perhaps you'll view the glimmering Chilean coast sliding past your gaze from the viewing deck.

Day 10 Ainsworth Bay • Tuckers Islets • Glaciology in Patagonia conversation

- Destination: Tuckers Islets
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Stella Australis* or M/V *Ventus Australis*

Activity Note: We will be boarding Zodiac crafts for two excursions today. Agility and balance are required for embarking. We will also participate in a morning hike and an afternoon hike of two to three hours each. The terrain on these hikes is steep, uneven, and rocky, and can often be muddy. Hikes may vary according to weather conditions. Today's activities take place in a remote location with no medical facilities nearby. Please note that, due to the nature of this adventure, the schedule is subject to change and could vary widely from what is provided below.

Breakfast: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: As dawn breaks this morning, we enter the Almirantazgo Inlet. We'll zip through Ainsworth Bay, mooring near the 120-foot-high Marinelli Glacier.

Then, we'll have our first opportunity to go ashore via the ship's Zodiac crafts. A Zodiac driver, Expedition Team member, and your Trip Experience Leader will accompany you on each excursion throughout your

trip. Onshore, choose between two modes of exploring the pristine nature around us: a gentle walk through a Magellanic forest teeming with evergreens and deciduous trees, or a more demanding hike on the crest of a glacial moraine.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: After lunch, you'll have some time to relax in the lounge and enjoy views of the passing fjords. Later, we set off by Zodiac again to cruise to Tuckers Islets, where we may catch sight of cormorants and Magellanic penguins—whose migratory patterns bring them here between October and early March—distinguishable by the wide black stripes under their chins and inverted horseshoe shapes on their stomachs.

Following our excursion, we return to the ship and enjoy time to relax before gathering for a conversation on *Glaciology in Patagonia*. One of the members of your Expedition Team will cover the science behind the formation and behavior of the glaciers that we witness as we navigate the fjord.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You might relax in your cabin this evening or enjoy a nightcap under the stars, taking advantage of the complimentary beverages available throughout our voyage.

Day 11 Discovering Tierra del Fuego presentation • Pia Glacier • Glacier Alley

- Destination: Glacier Alley
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Stella Australis* or M/V *Ventus Australis*

Activity Note: Today's activities include another Zodiac excursion, which requires agility and balance for embarking. This afternoon's hike is demanding. Those who

prefer may stay aboard to witness Glacier Alley from the ship's viewing deck. Today's activities take place in a remote location with no medical facilities nearby. Please note that, due to the nature of this adventure, the schedule is subject to change and could vary widely from what is provided below.

Breakfast: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: Discover more about this fascinating region during a presentation on *Discovering Tierra del Fuego*, where we'll learn about the history and ecology that will help us better understand what lies ahead. Then, visit the navigation bridge and learn more about the operation of your small ship. An Expedition Team member will explain how wayfaring works, and if we're lucky, we may even speak to the captain about his duties onboard.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: Weather permitting, we'll board Zodiac crafts that will take us ashore, where we'll have the opportunity to take a short hike. We'll take in views of the Pia Glacier where it flows from the Darwin Mountains into the sea. The play of light, reflection, and shadow against the glacial ice, which is of varying density and moisture content, creates a profound palette of subtle hues.

After returning to the ship, we'll sail along the Beagle Channel's northwestern arm and through majestic Glacier Alley. Take advantage of the Sun Deck where we can absorb the spectacular views of this icy landscape and discover the European names that have been given to these glaciers, including Holland, Germany, Spain, and France.

The movement of ice in this region appears to be "glacially slow," but it is actually in constant flux, more so in recent years due to the effects of global warming. A 2003 study led by researchers at the U.S. Jet Propulsion

Laboratory found that the Patagonia glaciers of Chile and Argentina are melting so rapidly that they are making a significant contribution to the rise of the sea level. Researchers believe that a change in the environment here is due to a rise in air temperature, a decrease in precipitation, and the unique nature of the Patagonia ice fields, which are dominated by "calving" glaciers. Calving glaciers spawn icebergs directly into the ocean and have different dynamics than the glaciers that end on land and melt at their front ends. Calving glaciers are more sensitive to climate change once they are pushed out of their delicate equilibrium, making this region one of the fastest areas of glacial retreat on Earth.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: The rest of the evening is free. You might want to view a documentary film being shown in the lounge.

Day 12 Explore Cape Horn • Wulaia Bay

- Destination: Wulaia Bay
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Stella Australis* or M/V *Ventus Australis*

Activity Note: Enjoy another Zodiac excursion today, which requires agility and balance for embarking. Today's activities include a morning hike and an afternoon hike of two to three hours each. The terrain on these hikes is steep, uneven, and rocky, and can often be muddy. Hikes may vary according to weather conditions. You must be able to climb 160 steps in order to reach Cape Horn. Today's activities take place in a remote location with no medical facilities nearby.

Please note that all shore landings are weather dependent and will take place only if sea conditions permit. This is especially true at Cape Horn, notorious for seas that are among

the roughest in the world, which may prevent any possibility of landing. The schedule below is subject to change and could vary widely.

Early Morning: You may wish to enjoy a cup of coffee bright and early this morning, as breakfast will be served after our first excursion: visiting Cape Horn.

The rocky promontory of Cape Horn rises nearly 1,400 feet above the water. Weather and sea conditions permitting, we'll embark Zodiacs to go ashore at Cape Horn National Park. Here, we'll survey the seascape where the Atlantic and Pacific oceans meet. If we're able to land today, we may hike to the top of the island to observe the lighthouse. From here we can take in panoramic views of the island's grassy plains and the cerulean fjords below. This is an exclusive opportunity, as ours is the only ship permitted to land on Cape Horn.

Breakfast: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: Enjoy a screening of the short documentary film *Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure*. This film chronicles the true story of the great explorer's heroic effort to save his expedition team after they were stranded for two years on the White Continent.

You then have free time until lunch. You might catch up on your travel journal or simply admire the view of the Beagle and Murray channels.

Lunch: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: Continue to enjoy the ship's amenities after lunch. Later this afternoon, we'll disembark in historic Wulaia Bay, once the site of the region's largest native settlements. This area is also renowned for the vastness of its vegetation and beauty of its landscapes—which may explain why Charles Darwin chose it as a landing point during his famous voyage on the *Beagle*. We'll hike

through a rugged forest with ferns and other native vegetation to a scenic point before returning to the ship.

Dinner: Enjoy your Captain's Farewell Dinner this evening. Like the Welcome Dinner at the beginning of your adventure, this special reception features more elaborate dishes and a convivial atmosphere—a fitting way to conclude your voyage.

Evening: The rest of the evening is free. Perhaps you'll ask the Expedition Team any last-minute questions you have about the ecology of Patagonia, or choose to retire to your room and rest up for tomorrow's discoveries.

Day 13 Disembark ship • Controversial Topic: The experience of Argentine veterans during the Falkland War • Explore Ushuaia • Lunch with a local family

- Destination: Ushuaia
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Cilene del Faro Hotel or similar

Breakfast: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: This morning, we bid farewell to our captain and crew as our cruise ends in Ushuaia, the "City at the End of the World." Ushuaia is a former penal colony whose name is a Yamana word for "bay that stretches into the sunset." Today, it's a small but busy port with a frontier atmosphere. The snowcapped Andes rise on one side of town, while the Beagle Channel extends from the other. After disembarking, we'll do some sightseeing en route to lunch.

Lunch: We'll visit a local home, where we'll meet an Ushuaia family and enjoy a home-cooked lunch.

Ushuaia is widely considered to be the world's southernmost city, and people who live here tend to originate from all over Argentina. As we dine on local favorites such as lentil stew and spinach fritters—not to mention a selection of home-made desserts—we'll have a chance to chat with our hosts about what it's like living at the "End of the World."

Afternoon: After checking in to our hotel, you'll have several hours to explore independently. You might delve into local history and natural science at the Museo del Fin del Mundo. Or, discover Ushuaia's life as a former Prison Colony at the Prison Museum and learn about early settlers and explorers and view the wax figures at the Galería Temática Historia Fueguina as you stroll from cell to cell.

Later, we'll make our way to a private room in a local restaurant and meet a local Argentine war veteran. Together we'll discuss the **Controversial Topic** of the Malvinas/Falkland War—specifically how Argentine soldiers like the one we'll meet today were treated during and afterward.

By 1982 the Argentinean dictatorship was beginning to fail. In a desperate attempt to gain support from the people, the government decided to reclaim the Falkland Islands—known in Argentina as the Malvinas Islands—from the United Kingdom. On April 2, 1982, the government sent its militia to the islands' shores—yet in their haste to begin the assault, the soldiers had very little training and lacked the proper equipment. Inevitable defeat soon became clear, and on June 14th a truce was declared between the two countries with Argentina on the losing side. In the end, over 600 soldiers had died in battle.

After returning home, Argentine soldiers received even less support than they did prior to deployment. In fact, from 1982 until 1987 the government did not provide support of

any kind to these veterans. Eventually a very basic pension and poor health care system was enacted, but it was too little, too late. Many veterans were already suffering from PTSD. It was only during the presidential term of Nestor Kirchner from 2003–2007 that the government truly recognized these veterans—offering a better pension and improved access to mental health professionals.

Dinner: At the restaurant.

Evening: The rest of the evening is free. Perhaps you'll head to the waterfront and enjoy a microbrew in a region renowned for its craft beers.

Day 14 Ushuaia • Fly to Buenos Aires

- Destination: Buenos Aires
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Arc Recoleta Boutique Hotel or similar

Activity Note: Today, you'll board a flight from Ushuaia to Buenos Aires, which is about 4 hours long. Expect a fairly long travel day, as we'll leave our hotel in Ushuaia first thing in the morning and arrive at our hotel in Buenos Aires in the mid-afternoon. Due to the nature of this adventure, the schedule is subject to change and could vary widely from what is provided below.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to the airport for our flight to Buenos Aires.

Lunch: On your own today. You might pick something up at the airport before boarding your flight.

Afternoon: After checking into our hotel in Buenos Aires, the afternoon is yours to explore independently. You might take a stroll in the Plazoleta Paseo de la Recoleta, a lovely park

near your hotel, or take advantage of your hotel's amenities. Later, you'll reconvene with your small group and Trip Experience Leader for a final briefing.

Dinner: Toast to your adventure during a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant in Puerto Madero, one of Buenos Aires' newest neighborhoods. Share your memories of South America with your travel mates as you savor authentic local fare like Argentinian beef and Malbec wine.

Evening: Following dinner, the rest of the evening is yours to relax or make any last-minute discoveries in Buenos Aires.

Day 15 Buenos Aires • Explore Parana Delta • Return to U.S. or begin post-trip extension

- Destination: Buenos Aires
- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll drive to the Recoleta District, known for its elegant homes, fashionable restaurants, and shops. Here, we'll explore the

famous cemetery, where we'll view the grave of Argentina's legendary former first lady Eva Peron.

Then, we'll transfer to the Parana Delta, where the Parana River empties into the Rio de la Plata on its way into the Atlantic. This exotic landscape is just half an hour from the city but 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. Enjoy a relaxing boat ride in this scenic area, which is one of Latin America's unique environments. After our boat ride concludes, we'll return to our hotel.

Lunch: On your own. If you missed it, ask your Trip Experience Leader where to find a *dulce de leche* gelato.

Afternoon: Travelers who are returning to the U.S. today will enjoy a few hours to take a last stroll around the neighborhood before transferring to the airport.

Travelers who are embarking on our *Iguassu Falls: Thundering Cascades of Argentina & Brazil* post-trip extension will remain at the hotel.

END YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

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

Day 1 Explore Buenos Aires

Day 1 Explore Buenos Aires

Day 2 Fly to Iguassu Falls • Discover Brazilian side of falls

Day 3 Iguassu Falls • Visit a Guaraní community

Day 4 Discover Argentinean side of Falls • Optional *Great Adventure* tour

Day 5 Depart for 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.*

La Tienda de Vinos Wine Tasting

(Day 5 \$40 per person)

This optional tour brings us to La Tienda de Vinos in El Calafate, where we'll enjoy an immersive wine-tasting experience amidst the backdrop of Patagonia charm. We'll be joined by a local sommelier who will share their expertise and the history of Argentinean vintages as we sample five unique kinds. La Tienda de Vinos captures the essence of El Calafate and the distinctive viticulture that thrives in this Patagonian setting.

PRE-TRIP

Santiago & Easter Island's Sacred Sites

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » Roundtrip airfare between Santiago and Easter Island
- » 6 nights accommodation
- » 9 meals: 5 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 2 dinners
- » 4 guided tours and cultural experiences
- » Services of our local 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. And above all, ponder the mystery of the nearly 900 large stone heads—called moai—that stand silently in clusters scattered across the island's landscape.

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Fly overnight from the U.S. to Santiago, Chile.

Evening: You're free to spend the evening as you please, perhaps venturing out to experience Santiago at night.

Day 2 Arrive Santiago, Chile

- Destination: Santiago
- Accommodations: InterContinental Santiago or similar

Morning: Upon arrival in Santiago, you'll be met at the airport by an O.A.T. representative, who will assist with your transfer to your hotel.

Lunch: On your own.

Afternoon: Late this afternoon, we'll meet our Trip Experience Leader and a local guide, who will lead us on an orientation walk of the area surrounding our hotel. We'll also meet any travelers who arrived early in Santiago before their pre-trip extension.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Day 3 Explore Santiago

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

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Our day begins with a walking tour through the streets of historic Santiago with a local guide. Home to a third of Chile's 17 million people, Santiago sits at the confluence of the Mapocho and Maipo rivers, surrounded on all sides by Andean peaks—a dramatic setting for a capital that has witnessed a remarkable history, from settlement by conquistadors in 1541 to the Marxist, military, and democratic governments of the 20th century. During our explorations

of Santiago, we'll get a true taste of the city as we visit La Moneda Government Palace and a local winery.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Enjoy your afternoon at leisure.

Dinner: On your own.

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

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

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll transfer to the airport early this morning for our flight 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.

Upon arrival to Easter Island late this morning, we'll check in to our hotel and have time to settle in.

Lunch: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to recommend a local spot.

Afternoon: 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 & Anakena Beach

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

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Enjoy a full-day tour of the island led by our Trip Experience Leader and a local guide. We'll set out first 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 view 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.

Lunch: Enjoy a boxed lunch after visiting the *moai*.

Afternoon: Continue your tour to discover Anakena Beach, where the first Polynesian settlers are believed to have landed and where we'll find six more *moai*.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: The evening is yours to make independent discoveries or relax poolside at the hotel.

Day 6 Visit Ahu Akivi • Sunset at Tahai Beach

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

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: The morning is yours for independent discovery.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: After lunch, we'll drive to Ahu Akivi, one of the only *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, Dinner
- Accommodations: Holiday Inn Santiago Airport or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Enjoy your final morning on Easter Island on your own. Perhaps you'll take a final stroll through town, or stop in at a local museum.

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

Afternoon: We'll fly back to Santiago.

Dinner: On your own.

Evening: Upon arrival in Santiago, we'll walk to our hotel inside the airport to rest before our flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina tomorrow.

Day 8 Fly to Buenos Aires

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Fly to Buenos Aires to begin our *The Wilderness Beyond: Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego & the Chilean Fjords* adventure.

POST-TRIP

Iguassu Falls: Thundering Cascades of Argentina & Brazil

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- | | |
|---|---|
| » Roundtrip flight from Buenos Aires to Iguassu Falls | » Services of our local Trip Experience Leader |
| » 4 nights accommodation | » Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters |
| » 8 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 3 dinners | » All transfers |
| » 3 guided tours and cultural experiences | |

POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

It's easy to add thundering Iguassu Falls—twice as wide as Niagara Falls—to your explorations of South America's natural wonders. Visit the Argentinean and Brazilian sides of this array of 275 separate cascades.

Day 1 Explore Buenos Aires

- Destination: Buenos Aires
- Accommodations: Arc Recoleta Boutique Hotel, Recoleta Grand Hotel or similar

Lunch: On your own.

Afternoon: The remainder of the afternoon and evening are free. You might view artwork including masterpieces by Goya, Rembrandt, van Gogh, Gauguin, Courbet, and more at the *Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes* (National Museum of Fine Arts), or wander the Plazoleta Paseo de la Recoleta.

As you pack for Iguassu Falls this afternoon, plan on taking a small bag carrying only what you need for three nights. Your larger luggage will be stored at your Buenos Aires hotel until your return to the city to catch your flight home.

Dinner: On your own—there is an abundance of choices nearby to suit your palate.

Evening: Enjoy a quiet evening at the hotel, or soak up the nightlife at one of the city's many lively spots.

Day 2 Fly to Iguassu Falls • Discover Brazilian side of falls

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

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

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Store your larger piece of luggage with hotel reception prior to heading to the airport for our flight to Iguassu Falls. 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 after we cross the border into Brazil.

Afternoon: We'll enter the Brazilian side of Iguassu Falls National Park after lunch. A stone path leads to several platforms with fine views from different angles. You can get close enough to the thundering torrents to feel the spray, and you may glimpse the park's resident coatis (raccoon-like animals).

After our visit concludes, we'll make our way to our hotel in Argentina.

Dinner: Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at the hotel this evening.

Evening: You may wish to retire after dinner tonight. Or enjoy a nightcap in one of the hotel's bars.

Day 3 Iguassu Falls • Visit a Guaraní community

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

Activity Note: Today's excursion involves hiking through jungle over uneven terrain. Some agility is required in order to participate. Temperatures in Iguassu can be over 90 degrees with 90% humidity

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll walk through the Rio de la Plata basin's verdant forest to visit a Guaraní community where we'll learn about this native South American group's fascinating culture. The largest population of Guaraní people can be found in Paraguay, but they

also live in Argentina, Brazil, and Bolivia. Today, we'll discover their use of medicinal herbs, handmade crafts, and commonly grown crops, including corn and sweet potatoes. Our Trip Experience Leader will help facilitate a conversation so we can gain so we can connect with the people we meet and ask questions about daily life here.

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: We'll return to our hotel early this afternoon and enjoy time for independent discoveries. You might visit the hummingbird garden, or immerse yourself in local culture at La Ferinha market. Or stay at the hotel and take advantage of the pool and solarium, tennis court, and vegetable garden.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: You may wish to retire after dinner tonight. Or enjoy a nightcap in one of the hotel's bars.

Day 4 Discover Argentinean side of Falls • Optional *Great Adventure* tour

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

Activity Note: Today's excursion involves hiking. Some agility is required in order to participate.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today, we explore Iguassu Falls from the Argentinean side, where the falls can be approached, viewed, felt, and experienced from

a number of angles. Upon arrival, we'll walk to the train station to board a narrow-gauge train bound for the waterfall known as the Devil's Throat, where water plunges 230 feet into a roiling cauldron. With the spray flying up to 50 feet above your head and rainbows dancing in it, the scenery here draws travelers from all over the world.

Next, we'll catch a train to the Upper Circuit, an easy, half-mile trail across the rim of the canyon that affords stunning views of the falls.

Lunch: Enjoy lunch on your own in the park today. You can find cafés and food stalls by the Visitor Center.

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 the hotel.

Evening: The evening is free. This might be a good time to review your photos of your South American adventure.

Day 5 Depart for U.S.

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Enjoy some free time to take advantage of the hotel's amenities and do any last-minute packing before our flight to Buenos Aires.

Lunch: On your own at the airport.

Afternoon: Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, we'll return to the hotel where our post-trip extension began to collect our luggage. You'll enjoy a few hours to relax before our evening flight.

Dinner: On your own.

Evening: Transfer to the airport to begin your journey home.

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.

YOUR M/V STELLA AUSTRALIS OR M/V VENTUS AUSTRALIS EXPEDITION SHIP

Explore aboard a 210-passenger small ship

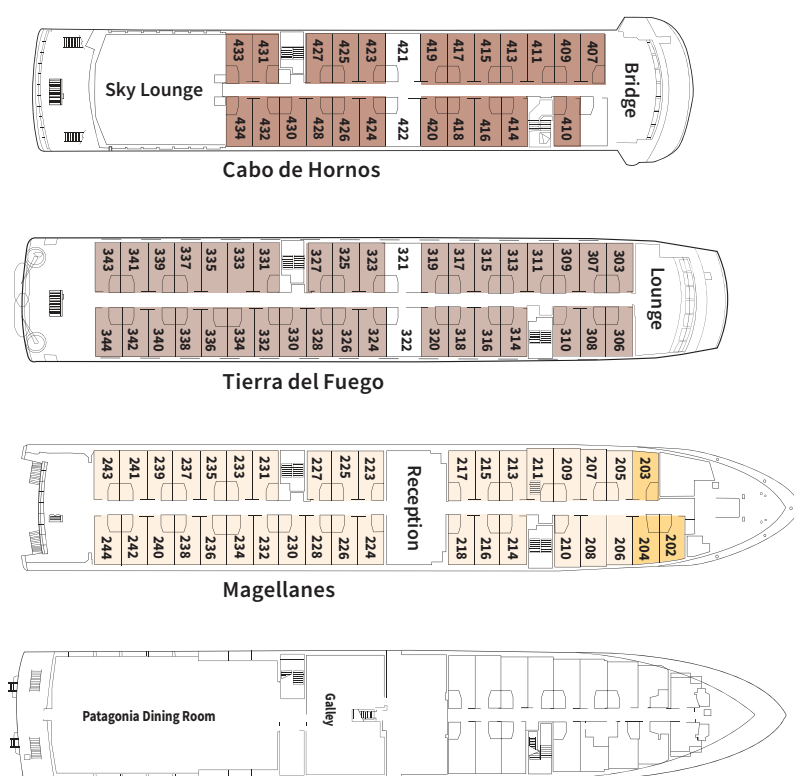
This 292-foot expedition ship is specially designed for cruising the legendary waters surrounding Tierra del Fuego. Amenities include three lounges, a large Sun Deck, and a restaurant. Our small group of 20–25 (average 22) will join other non-O.A.T. travelers, but we'll enjoy our own section in the dining rooms, and cabins—each with their own private balcony.



SHIPBOARD FEATURES

- **Dining areas:** Savor regionally-inspired cuisine in the single-seating main dining area at tables reserved for our small group only. Enjoy complimentary beer and wine at meals.
- **Indoor common areas:** Relax in three lounges, peruse the ship's onboard library, or visit the small gift shop.
- **Outdoor common areas:** Take in the breathtaking views from the ship's large viewing deck, or enjoy a more intimate view from your cabin's large, panoramic window.
- **Zodiac crafts:** Embark on Zodiacs from the ship for daily exploration of the glaciers, fjords, and wildlife in this remote corner of the world.

M/V STELLA AUSTRALIS OR M/V VENTUS AUSTRALIS



Stella Australis or Ventus Australis Cabin Categories

AAA	Cabo de Hornos: highest passenger deck with panoramic window
AA	Tierra del Fuego: middle passenger deck with panoramic window
A	Magellanes: lowest passenger deck with panoramic window
B	Patagonia: lowest passenger deck with panoramic window; forward on deck
	Not available

Length: 292 feet

Beam: 48 feet

Draft: 11 feet

Built: 2010

Cabins: 100 cabins, 177-210 sq. ft. in size with moveable beds

Passenger Capacity: 210

Group Size: 25 travelers maximum, with 1 Trip Experience Leader

Stairs, no elevator

O.A.T. uses two different ships in Patagonia. This deck plan is typical but ships may vary slightly in size and facilities.

CABIN FEATURES

- Each cabin is 177-210 sq. ft. in size
- All cabins have panoramic windows
- In-cabin amenities: Low, moveable beds and safe
- In-bathroom amenities: Private shower



Cabin with two twin beds

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 vacation.

- **Main trip only:** You will need 4 blank passport pages.
- **Pre-trip to Easter Island:** You will need 2 additional pages for a total of 6 blank passport pages.
- **Post-trip to Iguassu Falls:** You will need an additional page for a total of 5 pages.
- **Both a pre- and post-trip extension:** You will need a total of 7 blank passport pages.
- **Stopover in Bogota, Buenos Aires, Guayaquil, Lima, Panama City, 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.** A visa must be obtained in advance to visit Brazil.
- **Bolivia (optional stopover): Visa required.** 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).

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.

GROUP SIZE

- This adventure has a maximum group size of 25 travelers with a local Trip Experience Leader exclusive to O.A.T.

PACING

- 7 locations with 4 nights onboard a 210-passenger small ship in 14 days
- 3 1-night stays; 2 internal flights; 1 pre-dawn departure; some early mornings
- Several long overland drives, including 1 transfer (up to 12 hours) crossing the border between Argentina and Chile

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Not appropriate for travelers using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids
- You must be able to walk 3 miles unassisted on rough terrain and participate in 6–8 hours of physical activities each day
- This trip takes you to remote places with no medical facilities nearby
- 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
- You may encounter animals on this trip. We make every effort to keep these encounters safe, however animals may behave unpredictably or dangerously at times. Please use caution when interacting with animals on this trip: Keep a safe distance, stay alert, and respect the animals
- All activities on Days 5 through 12 take place in the wild; you may be exposed to winds up to 44 miles per hour, with occasional gusts up to 56 miles per hour
- Our activities on Day 12 (or Day 6 on the reverse itinerary) include 2 Zodiac landings, 160 steps up and a 2-mile walk at Cape Horn, and a 3-mile walk uphill at Wulaia Bay

CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures range from 50–60°F in the Andes and Patagonia and daily highs in the 80s in Buenos Aires

- Rain or high winds are possible at any time in the Andes and Patagonia

TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- Bumpy, gravelly, and icy roads; rugged paths over rocks, hard sand, and icy surfaces. We hike through uneven terrain and high winds on 5 treks of about 2 hours each
- Agility and balance are required for embarking small motor dinghies
- Travel by minibus (no toilet on board)
- Cruise aboard a 210-passenger small ship shared with other travelers. We'll also board Zodiac rafts for daily excursions during our cruise. Agility and balance are required for embarking these vessels.
- Three 6-12 hour drives and 2 internal flights of about 3-6 hours each

FLIGHT INFORMATION

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

ACCOMMODATIONS & FACILITIES

- 4 nights aboard a small ship with full hotel amenities; 9 nights staying in centrally located hotels on land
- All accommodations feature private baths
- Elevator service is not available on the small ship

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 Vaccination: Recommended for Iguassu Falls ONLY

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. 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.*

Medication Suggestions

- An antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness
- Prescription pain medication in the unlikely event of an injury in a remote location
- Motion sickness medication, if you are prone to motion sickness or seasickness

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 and Chile, but it is processed differently than in the U.S., so it may feel "heavy" and could upset your system. Fortunately, if you prefer bottled water, it is readily available for you to buy and is inexpensive compared to the U.S. On the cruise ship, purified water is provided free of charge. 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 daypack 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 (\$)

How to Exchange Money

On your trip, the best way to exchange currency is to wait until arrival in Argentina. 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 will charge a set fee or a percentage fee each time you use a foreign ATM. We recommend that you check with your bank before you depart. 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. If you are visiting a country that has different expectation for ATMs, they will be listed below.

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.

Credit & Debit Cards

While traveling, most countries and major cities will accept credit cards. We suggest that you bring one or two, 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, as not all are accepted around the world. 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.

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:** \$1–2 per room, per night
- **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.
- **Restaurants, cafes, and bars:** In Argentina and Chile waiters expect a 10% cash tip.
- **Included in Your Trip Price:** Gratuities are included for local guides, drivers, ship crew, 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 (this is usually preferred) or in U.S. dollars. Please do not use personal or traveler’s checks for tips.

AIR, OPTIONAL TOURS & STAYING IN TOUCH

Land Only Travelers & Customized 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 Customization options and purchased air through O.A.T, accommodations and airport transfers are included. However, if you chose one of our Customization options, but did not purchase air through O.A.T., accommodations are included, but airport transfers are not. If you chose one of our customization options, and purchase air through O.A.T. but not the accommodations, the airport transfers are not included. We have included transfer options below.
- **Customization 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.

- **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.

When booking your international flights, please note that the tour will end on Day 15 of the base tour (Day 19 of the Iguassu Falls post trip extension) 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

Most hotels in Chile and Argentina offer WiFi in the rooms. Please be aware, WiFi is NOT available on board the ship.

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

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	For your base trip, the flights will be on Aerolineas Argentinas, the published weight limit is 33 lbs for checked bags and 17 lbs for a carry-on. We have arranged for a higher checked luggage weight limit for all of our travelers on Aerolineas Argentinas. The exception made allows your checked luggage to weigh 50lbs and while we don't expect this to change, it is at the discretion of the airline. For the pre-trip to Easter Island in Chile, your flights will be on LAN airlines, with a limit of 50 lbs for checked bags and 17 lbs for a carry-on.
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 main trip.	
REMARKS/SUGGESTIONS	
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.	

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.
- **TIP:** Consider bringing a second, empty, lockable bag folded into your main suitcase, with a luggage tag and small lock. Use this to carry souvenirs home. Also, when traveling with a companion we recommend "cross-packing," i.e., pack 2 outfits of your clothing in your companion's luggage and vice-versa, in case one bag is delayed.
- **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.
- **Option to store luggage on the 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, our list suggests several layers of clothing. For the warmer climates you visit, most of your clothing can be made of cotton or cotton-synthetic blends. For the colder climes, consider long underwear made from water-wicking synthetics beneath outer layers of wool-synthetic blends and fleece, to stay dry and warm. If you like to hand-wash your clothes, look for fabrics that will dry out overnight.

- **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.
- **Waterproof gear:** You'll want good, waterproof gear all year round. Weather in Patagonia is very unpredictable and splashing may occur when riding in the zodiacs, so you'll want rain gear you are comfortable in, and dry footwear, such as light hiking boots with a built-in Gore-Tex liner. Don't forget your waterproof gear—protective suits or parkas will not be provided. We strongly suggest you bring a sturdy waterproof shell or jacket (this will also keep you comfortable on windy days), waterproof pants, waterproof shoes, a rain hat, and waterproof ski gloves.
- **Warm clothing:** We suggest a warm sweater, a windproof jacket, gloves, and a hat for your time in Patagonia (Calafate, Paine and Ushuaia). 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. Sneakers are fine for some parts of the trip, but for the hikes and rural areas our Trip Experience Leaders suggest something even sturdier and waterproof, like lightweight hiking boots or trekking shoes. Travelers on the Iguassu extension may want to bring a pair of light shoes or sports sandals for visiting the falls.
- **Trekking poles:** Many past travelers have recommended bringing a folding walking stick for hiking, sometimes called a trekking pole. These are sold in most camping stores. An alternative is a folding ski pole.

Style Hints

- Dress for the cruise is informal, casual, and for adventure. Men do not need jackets and ties; women do not require fancy dresses or high-heeled shoes. A small selection of your favorite everyday outfits is fine for all activities, including dinners.
- On board the ship it is very warm; bring both thick and light clothing.

Recommended 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. Each travelers packing list may be different depending on the climate you are used to. 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: Shoes should be comfortable walking or running shoes with arch support; hard-bottom shoes with soles that offer good traction are preferred. Sneakers are fine for some parts of the trip, but during your ship excursions, our Trip Experience Leaders suggest something even sturdier and waterproof, like lightweight hiking boots or trekking shoes. Travelers on the Iguassu extension may want to bring a pair of light shoes or sports sandals for visiting the falls.
- ☐ Waterproof gear: Waterproof jacket with a hood or rain poncho, waterproof pants, waterproof ski gloves, waterproof shoes
- ☐ Socks: A couple pairs should be medium to heavy weight for hiking
- ☐ Light wool or Polartec fleece jacket: Even in summer, Patagonia can be cool, especially in the mountains.
- ☐ Warm hat: For use on the ship, as it can be cold and windy. As the hat can get damp during your excursions, we recommend you bring a minimum of two.
- ☐ Wide-brim sun hat or visor for sun protection
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Sleepwear
- ☐ Optional: Swimsuit, in case one of the hotels has a pool. There may also be a chance for some swimming during the extensions to Iguassu Falls and Easter Island, depending on the weather.

Seasonal Clothing Recommendations

For March through October 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 fleece-lined sweater, warm coat, hat, ski gloves, scarf, etc is a must. As your gear will likely get wet during your ship excursions, we recommend you pack two hats, scarves, pairs of gloves, etc.

- ☐ Long underwear: Long underwear adds warmth without bulk and doesn't take up much room in your suitcase

Essential Items

- ☐ Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, etc. Our hotels/ship provide shampoo and soap but usually not washcloths.
- ☐ Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses; sunglasses
- ☐ Sunscreen: SPF 45 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.
- ☐ Pocket-size tissues
- ☐ Moist towelettes (baby wipes) and/or anti-bacterial “water-free” hand cleanser
- ☐ Light folding umbrella for Buenos Aires (it will be too windy for umbrellas in Patagonia – see clothing suggestions for waterproof gear)
- ☐ Electrical transformer & plug adapters. Please note, not all “universal” adaptors include Type I. We recommend you double-check before your departure.
- ☐ Camera gear with extra batteries or battery charger. We recommend bringing ziploc bags to protect your camera.
- ☐ Lightweight binoculars (for spotting wildlife)
- ☐ Hair dryer. Bring this only if you feel you need one 100% of the time. Most hotels will provide them during this trip.
- ☐ Folding walking stick (see Functional Tips)

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

☐ Optional: Motion sickness medication, if you are prone to motion sickness or seasickness

Home-Hosted Visits

Many of our adventures feature a visit with a local family. 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 countries 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 and Argentina 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.)

Cabins are equipped with 220-volt outlets. In your bathroom you will find both 220-volt and 110-volt outlets, for use with electric shavers and such.

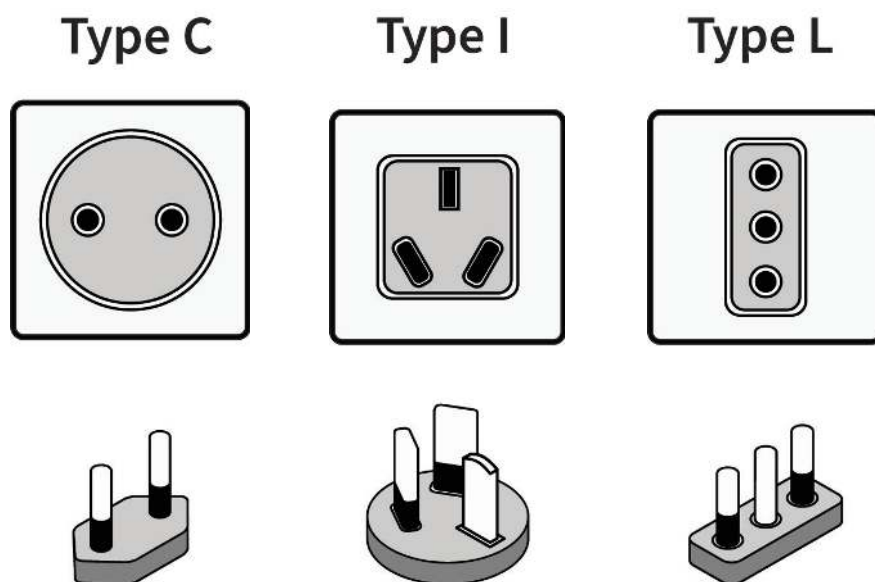
Plugs

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



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

Santiago, Chile: Santiago has such delightful year-round temperatures that its climate is often compared to that of southern California. During your travel season, daytime highs are typically in the 70s and low 90s. Nights are significantly cooler.

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.

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. 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.

Ushuaia, Argentina: The climate is significantly cooler than in Buenos Aires, but the ocean moderates temperatures and prevents extremely cold or hot weather. The weather here is varied and unpredictable. There is a constant wind from mountains that are snowcapped year-round, which can change from a gentle breeze to a ferocious gale in minutes. The weather on a summer day in Ushuaia can start sunny, turn windy and rainy, return to dazzling sunshine, and then become very cloudy. All the while, temperatures may hold steady around 50–60 degrees F.

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.

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	SANTIAGO, CHILE			EASTER ISLAND, CHILE		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	85 to 54	84 to 37	--	78 to 70	87 to 70	3.6
FEB	84 to 53	86 to 38	0.1	79 to 71	88 to 71	3.4
MAR	80 to 49	89 to 40	0.2	78 to 70	88 to 71	3.4
APR	72 to 45	91 to 48	0.5	76 to 68	86 to 73	4.6
MAY	64 to 41	94 to 62	2.3	73 to 66	84 to 74	5.0
JUN	58 to 38	94 to 68	3.1	70 to 64	84 to 73	4.0
JUL	57 to 37	95 to 68	3.0	69 to 62	84 to 73	3.7
AUG	61 to 39	95 to 64	2.1	68 to 62	84 to 73	3.4
SEP	65 to 42	93 to 59	1.1	70 to 62	85 to 72	3.3
OCT	71 to 45	92 to 50	0.5	71 to 62	86 to 70	2.9
NOV	77 to 48	89 to 44	0.2	73 to 65	87 to 70	3.2
DEC	82 to 51	86 to 39	0.2	76 to 67	87 to 70	3.6

MONTH	BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA			USHUAIA, ARGENTINA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Average # of Days with Rainfall
JAN	87 to 69	86 to 47	4.2	59 to 42	79	13
FEB	84 to 67	89 to 52	4.0	57 to 41	79	13
MAR	80 to 63	90 to 54	4.0	54 to 38	81	14
APR	73 to 57	91 to 59	3.3	50 to 36	83	12
MAY	66 to 51	89 to 60	3.1	43 to 32	83	11
JUN	60 to 46	89 to 62	2.1	40 to 30	82	12
JUL	59 to 45	89 to 62	2.3	40 to 30	84	12
AUG	63 to 48	88 to 57	2.3	43 to 30	83	11
SEP	66 to 50	87 to 53	2.4	48 to 33	79	13
OCT	73 to 55	88 to 56	4.0	52 to 36	75	12
NOV	78 to 61	86 to 53	3.6	55 to 39	74	12
DEC	83 to 65	86 to 48	3.3	56 to 41	74	11

MONTH	PUNTA ARENAS, 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	57 to 45	74 to 61	1.4	88 to 68	80	7.5
FEB	57 to 45	77 to 61	1.1	88 to 68	80	6.3
MAR	54 to 42	82 to 66	1.6	90 to 66	80	6.3
APR	49 to 38	85 to 73	1.6	84 to 61	85	6.7
MAY	44 to 35	88 to 83	1.7	75 to 54	90	7.1
JUN	39 to 32	87 to 84	1.3	73 to 50	90	5.9
JUL	38 to 31	86 to 82	1.3	73 to 50	85	3.9
AUG	41 to 32	86 to 77	1.3	79 to 52	80	5.5
SEP	46 to 35	84 to 69	1.1	81 to 54	80	7.1
OCT	50 to 38	78 to 63	0.9	86 to 59	80	7.5
NOV	53 to 40	73 to 61	1.1	88 to 63	75	8.3
DEC	56 to 43	74 to 61	1.2	90 to 66	75	7.5

ABOARD YOUR SHIP: CABIN FEATURES, DINING & SERVICES ON BOARD

M/V Stella Australis & M/V Ventus Australis

Explore Patagonia on one of two expedition ships designed for cruising off the coast of South America. Onboard, our group of 24 travelers will mingle with other adventurers (both ships hold 210 passengers) while absorbing the panoramas afforded by the viewing deck and enjoying the ships' many amenities.

Cabin Amenities

Your cabin amenities include a private bathroom with shower, hairdryer, in-room heating and air-conditioning, internal telephones and a security box. The decks and dining room are spacious and attractively decorated, providing welcoming locations for relaxing with your traveling companions. Films and documentaries will be shown in the lounge, but regular TV reception is not possible, as our location is too remote. Likewise, there is no Internet connection on board.

Cabin Assignments

You will receive confirmation of your deck and/or cabin category upfront in writing; it will be on your invoice and online in My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner. However, your cabin number may not be assigned until you arrive on board the ship. (This is normal procedure for small ships.) If there's no cabin number on your invoice or online, you can presume it will be assigned later and communicated to you when you board.

Dining

All meals are taken in a spacious window-lined dining room. The food onboard includes international food and typical local dishes. If you require a special diet, such as gluten-free, low-cholesterol, or vegetarian, please request this in advance, you may do so by contacting one of our Travel Counselors. There is no room service on board. Dining times will vary according to the scheduled daily activities. In keeping with regional custom, dinner is served at a later hour (8:30 pm) than Americans may be accustomed to. Lunch and dinner will be served a la carte, while breakfast will be buffet style. Chilean or Argentinean wines will be featured with meals. No outside alcohol is allowed onboard but the ship features an open bar.

Electricity

Cabins are equipped with 220-volt or 110-volt outlets. In your bathroom you will find both 220-volt and 110-volt outlets, for use with electric shavers and such.

Laundry Services

There is no laundry service available on board.

Medical Services

There is always a doctor onboard, as well as all of the basic First Aid supplies. Any physician's fees will be debited to your shipboard account and be presented for settlement at the end of the voyage. All specific medicines are the responsibility of each passenger.

Public Spaces

- **Dining areas:** Savor regionally-inspired cuisine in the single-seating main dining area at tables reserved for our small group only. Enjoy complimentary beer and wine at meals.
- **Indoor common areas:** Relax in three lounges, peruse the ship's onboard library, or visit the small gift shop.
- **Outdoor common areas:** Take in the breathtaking views from the ship's large viewing deck, or enjoy a more intimate view from your cabin's large, panoramic window.
- **Zodiac crafts:** Embark on Zodiacs for daily explorations of the glaciers, fjords, and wildlife in this remote corner of the world

Shipboard Payments

Chilean pesos, US dollars, or major credit cards are accepted for purchases made on board.

Ship-to-Shore Communications

The ships have satellite-telephone connections, which permit passengers to call to any part of the world, in accordance with the current, local tariffs. The cost of using this service will be approximately \$3 per minute.

Shop

There is a small shop on board with all of the articles appropriate for such a trip: rolls of film, batteries, T-shirts, hats, sweaters, parkas, etc. Items purchased at the shop can be paid for with MasterCard, Visa, or American Express credit cards, US dollars, or Chilean pesos.

Smoking Policy

Smoking is prohibited on board, with the exception of one outdoor deck area reserved for smokers.

Wheelchairs

The ships are not built to accommodate wheelchairs. They have four decks reachable only by stairs.

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.

Argentina Culture

Since most modern-day Argentinians are descendants of Spanish and other European colonists, Argentinian culture has often been described as European with a Latin American flair. Native influences aren't very strong, as Argentina's indigenous peoples were almost eliminated by the Spanish. The gauchos, however, 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.

Due to centuries of Spanish rule and other European influences, Argentina developed into a majority Roman Catholic nation. Catholic holidays are observed and celebrated and there are countless churches spread throughout the country. Gregarious by nature, Argentinian culture often revolves around *mate*, a bitter tea that is shared by all. They love talking tango and football, but anything about the Perón era and the Malvinas remain highly sensitive topics with Argentinians.

Chile Culture

Partially due to its historic isolation by natural barriers, Chilean culture is distinct from most South American countries. With its history of Spanish colonization, European migration, and the indigenous peoples, Chile embraces its unique melding of cultures. Surprisingly for such a long and narrow country, there is little variance from north to south. A sense of national identity is also maintained by the fact almost everyone speaks Spanish, or *castellano* as Chileans would say—yet there are remote regions of the country where indigenous Mapuche speak their own languages and practice their own religion.

While proud of their history and culture, Chileans continue to feel the aftershocks of the brutal military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. Religion plays an important role in Chilean life, and throughout the year, they hold festivals and processions featuring colorful costumes and dances to honor various Catholic saints.

Taking Photographs

When taking photos of people in most countries, be polite and ask permission to take a close-up. In many countries, you should not be taking photos of children or older women without permission. 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.

Please obey any signs regarding photos at museum or sites; 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. Carry a one-day supply of cash, and your passport, in a travel pouch. Don't leave valuables unattended in your hotel room – use a room safe as needed. In any sort of puzzling street situation, try to keep one hand on your wallet or money belt.

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.

Travel in South America

Part of the adventure of this trip is the possibility that things may change. Local influences may make it impossible for us to follow the planned itinerary exactly and the sequence of sites visited may change. Rest assured that we have considerable experience at responding to changing circumstances on the spot. Our goal is always to offer you the best travel experience and the most memorable explorations of this intriguing land.

Complex, multi-layered cultural traditions and stunning natural geography make South America a fascinating destination. To get the most enjoyment out of your trip, remember that many South American countries are still considered developing nations, and be aware that you may be approached to buy crafts or solicited by children to take photographs.

In restaurants, hotels, and at cultural sites, everything works according to a slower sense of time than what you are used to. It's best to wind down and adjust to the local pace and philosophy.

Regional Flights in South America

In South America, it is simply a fact of life that schedules for internal flights often change on short notice. When this happens, our air travel experts strive to get you on new flights as close to the original schedule as possible, but limited availability of seats may require us to use early-morning flights or change the day of the flight. If schedule changes make it necessary, we may have to rise before dawn on some days where early-morning wake-ups are not mentioned in your printed itinerary.

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.

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 Tomić 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.

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.

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.

Useful Websites

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](http://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

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 or Maps.me

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 or Bolt or Grab

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 or Skype or Signal

WiFi calling anywhere in the world

Duolingo or 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

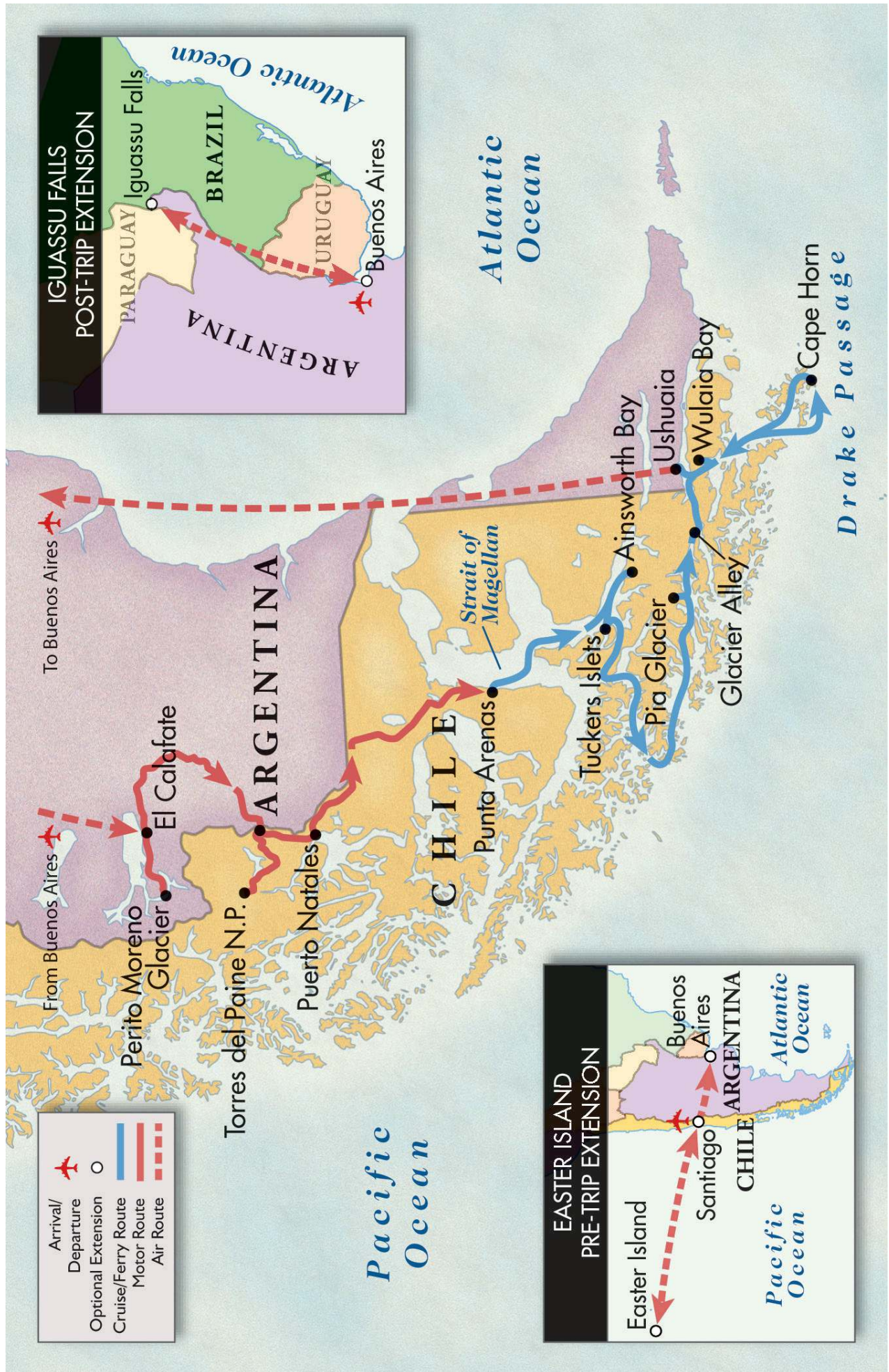
Maps your location and provides emergency numbers for police, medics, and more

GeoSure

Safely navigate neighborhoods around the world

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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