

Overseas Adventure Travel®

THE LEADER IN CUSTOMIZED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES SINCE 1978

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



Exploring South America: Rio, Buenos Aires,
Patagonia & Chilean Fjord Cruise

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 enjoy the thrill of off-the-beaten-path discovery coupled with the convenience of unpacking just once. Aboard our privately owned small ship, you will visit lesser-known ports that larger vessels cannot access—and enjoy intimate interactions with local people in your small group of no more than 25 travelers. 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.


But your personal connections are not limited to your time on land—while onboard, you will enjoy the warm hospitality provided by our friendly, English-speaking crew, as well as the camaraderie of your fellow American travelers. Whether you travel with a partner, sister, friend, or independently, you will feel welcomed and included throughout your journey. And if you do choose to travel solo, you will enjoy an unmatched value, with our FREE or low-cost 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, 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

CONTENTS

EXPLORING SOUTH AMERICA: RIO, BUENOS AIRES, PATAGONIA & CHILEAN FJORD CRUISE

Your Adventure at a Glance:

Where You're Going, What it Costs,
and What's Included **4**

Your Detailed Day-To-Day Itinerary **6**

Pre-Trip Extension **18**

Post-Trip Extension **21**

Deck Plans **25**

ESSENTIAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

Travel Documents & Entry Requirements... **27**

Rigors, Vaccines & General Health **29**

Money Matters: Local Currency &
Tipping Guidelines..... **33**

Air, Optional Tours & Staying in Touch **36**

Packing: What to Bring & Luggage Limits... **39**

Climate & Average Temperatures **46**

Aboard Your Ship: Cabin Features,
Dining & Services on Board **50**

ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE

South American Culture **52**

Shopping: What to Buy, Customs,
Shipping & More **56**

DEMOGRAPHICS & HISTORY

Brazil..... **59**

Argentina **61**

Chile **64**

RESOURCES

Suggested Reading **68**

Suggested Films & Videos **69**

Useful Websites **71**

Useful Apps **72**



Gaucha (cowboy), Patagonia, Argentina

Exploring South America: Rio, Buenos Aires, Patagonia & Chilean Fjord Cruise

Small Group Adventure

Brazil: Rio de Janeiro, Iguassu Falls | **Argentina:** Buenos Aires, El Calafate |

Chile: Torres del Paine National Park, Santiago

Small groups of no more than 25 travelers, guaranteed

20 days starting from \$10,495

including international airfare

Single Supplement: **FREE**

For departure dates & prices, visit www.oattravel.com/sko2026pricing

South America is a veritable feast of majestic landscapes, distinctive flora and fauna, and cultural wonders. We'll explore the best the continent has to offer by land and during a 4-night cruise aboard the shared charter, **90-passenger M/V Skorprios III**. Witness the thundering cascades of Iguassu Falls in Argentina and Brazil, discover the windswept beauty of Patagonia's Torres del Paine National Park, and admire the glacier-lined fjords at Chile's southern tip.

IT'S INCLUDED

- 18 nights accommodation, including 4 nights aboard the shared charter, 90-passenger M/V Skorprios III
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- All land transportation
- 40 meals—18 breakfasts, 10 lunches, and 12 dinners (including a Home-Hosted Dinner)
- 17 guided tours and cultural experiences
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers, 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.

Exploring South America: Rio, Buenos Aires, Patagonia & Chilean Fjord Cruise



ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAYS	DESTINATION
1	Fly to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
2-4	Rio de Janeiro
5-6	Fly to Iguassu Falls
7-8	Fly to Buenos Aires, Argentina
9-11	Fly to El Calafate
12-13	Torres del Paine, Chile
14-16	Cruise Chilean Fjords
17-19	Fly to Santiago, Chile
20	Return to U.S.

WHAT TO EXPECT

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Moderate

Pacing: 7 locations with 4 nights aboard a ship in 19 days

Physical requirements: You must be able to walk 3 miles unassisted and be comfortable participating in 6-8 hours of physical activities each day. **Please note:** Onboard the M/V Skorpions III, there is no elevator, and dining room is in the lowest of the ship's three decks.

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

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

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

People-to-People Experiences: Delve deep into the local culture during an exclusive **Home-Hosted Dinner** with a local family in Buenos Aires, Argentina's cosmopolitan city. Over a meal of authentic Argentine cuisine, you'll have the opportunity to make connections with your hosts and learn more about their lives.

O.A.T. Exclusives: Explore Chile, Argentina, and Brazil all on one itinerary—a comprehensive experience most other companies don't offer. Plus, experience rural Patagonia during **A Day in the Life** of a Patagonian sheep ranch. You may see a sheep-herding demonstration or have the opportunity to pitch in with the farmers as they shear the sheep.

PERSONALIZE YOUR ADVENTURE

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Brazil's Atlantic Coast:
Exuberant Rio de Janeiro &
Colonial Salvador de Bahia
PRE-TRIP: 5 nights from **\$2,695**

**Santiago & Easter Island's
Sacred Sites**
POST-TRIP: 5 nights from **\$3,495**

Exploring South America: Rio, Buenos Aires, Patagonia & Chilean Fjord Cruise

YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

BEGIN YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

5 nights in *Brazil's Atlantic Coast: Exuberant Rio de Janeiro & Colonial Salvador de Bahia*

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Day 2 Arrive in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Day 3 Fly to Salvador de Bahia

Day 4 Explore Salvador

Day 5 Explore Salvador • Bahia folklore show

Day 6 Salvador • Fly to Rio de Janeiro

Day 7 Rio de Janeiro • Begin main trip

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Depart on your overnight flight to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Day 2 Arrive in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil • Explore Rio

- Destination: Rio de Janeiro
- Included Meals: Dinner
- Accommodations: Porto Bay Rio Internacional Hotel or similar

Morning: Welcome to Rio, where we'll spend the next three nights. As the home of the bossa nova, world-famous beaches, and a renowned annual *carnaval*, Rio is a city known for its exuberant zest for life. With lush mountain peaks jutting upward dramatically from a sand-wrapped coastline, and its iconic *Christ the Redeemer* statue perched atop Corcovado Mountain and overlooking the Sugarloaf, it's a city blessed as much with natural beauty

as with cultural and cosmopolitan delights. In recent years, Rio has also ascended to the world stage as a major cultural capital, having hosted the 2016 Summer Olympics. When you arrive, an O.A.T. representative will meet you at the airport and arrange for your transfer to your hotel.

Lunch: On your own—perhaps you'll seek out one of the numerous restaurants, cafés, and bistros along Copacabana Beach, or pick up a snack at a beachside kiosk.

Afternoon: The afternoon is free for you to do as you wish. Perhaps you'll rejuvenate at the hotel pool or fitness center. Take time to rest and settle in. Or begin your exploration of Rio with a stroll on the beach.

Later, join your Trip Experience Leader and fellow travelers, including those joining us from the *Brazil's Atlantic Coast: Exuberant Rio de Janeiro & Colonial Salvador de Bahia* pre-trip

extension, for a Welcome Briefing in the hotel. Then, we'll embark on an orientation walk along the shoreline for a look at the famous beaches that became source material for the internationally acclaimed songs "Copacabana" and "The Girl from Ipanema."

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: The rest of the evening is free. Perhaps you'll listen to the rhythm of the bossa nova and view the city lights sparkling on the ocean over a drink at your hotel.

Day 3 Explore Rio

- Destination: Rio
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Porto Bay Rio Internacional Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll explore Rio on an included city tour this morning. We'll first visit Corcovado, the site of the *Christ the Redeemer* statue. We'll then take a train up the hill and climb stairs leading up to the statue. Completed in 1931, the 625-ton statue rises 124 feet on its pedestal atop 2,300-foot-high Corcovado Mountain, with its outstretched arms spanning 92 feet. After decades of exposure to the elements and erosion of the soapstone exterior, the statue was restored to its full luster in 2010 and continues to serve as a world-famous symbol of Christianity.

Next, we head to downtown Rio and see the Selarón Stairs, an outdoor staircase of 250 colorfully decorated steps created by artist Jorge Selarón.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Upon returning to the hotel, the rest of the afternoon and evening is free for making your own discoveries. Perhaps

you'll inhale the fragrance of thousands of indigenous and exotic plants at the Jardim Botânico, a tranquil public park. Or venture to the Santa Teresa neighborhood, where cobbled streets, elegant mansions, galleries, artists' studios, and sidewalk mosaics reveal the city's bohemian side.

Dinner: On your own. If you'd like a change of pace from Brazilian fare, you'll find multiple options along Copacabana Beach, including Italian, Lebanese, Asian, European, and American restaurants—all located near your hotel.

Evening: You might immerse yourself in nightlife Rio-style this evening at one of Copacabana's many *botecos* (bars).

Day 4 Rio • Carnival experience • Sugarloaf Mountain

- Destination: Rio
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Porto Bay Rio Internacional Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll continue our explorations of Rio with a *Carnaval* experience tour at Samba School Warehouse. Brazil's *Carnaval* is an important tradition held to enjoy the last moments of indulgence before the beginning of Lent. During the festival in Rio de Janeiro, colossal parades are held for the public's entertainment. Music is the centerpiece of the entire display with an emphasis on rhythm and percussion that rattles the ground beneath the feet of spectators. People don costumes in a variety of colorful hues, as well as t-shirts that represent their neighborhoods.

On this tour, we'll gain a better understanding of what goes on behind the scenes to make this event possible as a former *Carnaval* participant guides us through workshops where festival

floats are built and stored. We'll learn, for example, that it takes an entire year to prepare for the upcoming parade, and we'll hear what our guide loves most about the spectacle. We'll even have a chance to learn a typical *Carnaval* dance and get a hands-on percussion demonstration.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: After lunch, we'll drive back to our hotel, and you'll have some free time. Then, we'll reconvene and drive to one of Rio's iconic landmarks: the Sugarloaf, a mountain rising abruptly 1,299 feet from the water's edge. A cable car transports visitors to the top from the nearby peak of Morro de Urca. The steep granite faces of the Sugarloaf are popular with rock climbers, and there is a panoramic view from the summit.

Dinner: On your own—you can grab a bite on Sugar Loaf, or wait until you return to Copacabana to try out a local restaurant.

Evening: The rest of the evening is at your leisure. For the best experience of the nightlife of Rio, head to the Lapa neighborhood in the heart of the city's historic district. Here, you'll find many lively pubs where you can dance the night away. Or pack up for tomorrow's adventure and get a good night's rest.

Day 5 Rio • Fly to Iguassu Falls

- Destination: Brazil's Iguassu Falls
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Panoramic Grand Hotel or similar

Activity Note: Our day begins with a flight of a little over two hours to Iguassu Falls. Also, today's excursion involves walking over a stone pathway. Some agility is required in order to participate. Please note that our passports will be checked as we cross the Argentinean border.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll wake up early this morning and head to the airport for our flight to Iguassu Falls. Upon arrival, we'll drive to the falls.

Lunch: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can provide options.

Afternoon: We'll embark on a walking tour of the Brazilian side of the falls led by a local guide. Twice as high as Niagara Falls, the falls at Iguassu are located on the border of Argentina and Brazil, and are among the world's most impressive sights. During our tour, we'll enjoy panoramic views of the 275 cascades that earned Iguassu its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll get to travel along a stone path through the forest that leads to several platforms where we can observe the falls from different angles. Pause here to feel the immense power of nature all around you—literally, as your skin is misted by the falls' spray. As we walk, our local guide will also help us to spot the unique birds that thrive in the lush national park surrounding Iguassu.

Continue exploring the walkways of Iguassu Falls on your own. Later, we'll drive across the border to Argentina, where we'll check in to our hotel.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: You are at leisure this evening. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the hotel.

Day 6 Iguassu Falls, Argentina • Optional Great Adventure tour

- Destination: Argentina's Iguassu Falls
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Panoramic Grand Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Experience the grandeur of the falls from a different perspective: the Argentinean side of Iguassu, where the majority of the cascades are found. A local guide will lead us on a walking tour. With the spray flying up to 50 feet above your head and rainbows dancing in the mist on a clear day, the views are a sight to behold.

Lunch: On your own in the park—you can find cafés and food stalls by the Visitor Center.

Afternoon: Enjoy free time to spend among the park's many trails. A walk on the Upper Circuit reveals a new perspective on the falls. You might also search for birds, coatis, and monkeys on an easy walk along the Green Trail.

Or, join our *Great Adventure* optional tour. We begin by entering the jungle on the Sendero Yacaratía trail, which offers sweeping panoramic views. After a short bus ride, followed by a walk along a winding set of stairs, we arrive at the Puerto Macuco base and the floating dock where we board our motorboat for the second half of our tour. We travel by motorboat 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, San Martin.

The rest of the afternoon is free to explore the hotel grounds or take a dip in the pool.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: The rest of the evening is free. Perhaps you'll chat with a new friend over a nightcap at the hotel bar.

Day 7 Iguassu • Fly to Buenos Aires • Home-Hosted Dinner

- Destination: Buenos Aires
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Loi Suites Recoleta or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

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

Lunch: On your own—you might grab something to eat at the airport.

Afternoon: Upon arrival, we'll transfer to our hotel. You have the rest of the afternoon to relax in your room or enjoy the hotel's amenities.

Dinner: We'll break into smaller groups and set out to enjoy a **Home-Hosted Dinner** with a local family.

Evening: Spend the rest of the evening at leisure. Perhaps you'll experience the abundant nightlife in your hotel's fashionable Recoleta neighborhood, or relax in your room.

Day 8 Explore Buenos Aires

- Destination: Buenos Aires
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Loi Suites Recoleta or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Discover the rich history of Buenos Aires on an included city tour led by our Trip Experience Leader. You'll find that it's an epic tale of birth and rebirth, protests and passions, suffering and triumph set against the placid landscape of the Rio de la Plata. First, we'll visit the final resting place of Argentina's beloved first lady, Eva Perón, in the Recoleta neighborhood's extravagant cemetery.

Then, we'll drive to Plaza de Mayo—site of Argentina's presidential residence, the Casa Rosada, and the heart of Buenos Aires' political life. Then, we'll wander the wide boulevards of Avenida 9 de Julio. After, we stroll the colorful La Boca artists' district, where the Argentinean tango was born.

Our exploration of Buenos Aires concludes with a tango lesson in La Boca. Professional, local dancers will introduce us to the dance whose passion and grace exemplify the spirit of Argentinean culture.

Lunch: On your own—you'll find a wealth of choices within steps of your conveniently located hotel.

Afternoon: Explore Buenos Aires at your own pace during your afternoon at leisure. Perhaps you'll enjoy the *Paseo del Rosedal*, or Rose Garden Walk, located in nearby Palermo. Here, you can stroll through charming gardens where around 1,000 varieties of roses are on display. Or you may want to explore the National Museum of Fine Arts, where around 30 rooms house works by such renowned artists as Rembrandt, Goya, and Picasso.

Dinner: On your own—you'll find restaurants serving everything from empanadas to hamburgers within walking distance of your hotel.

Evening: You are free this evening to take advantage of the lively nightlife of the Recoleta neighborhood where your hotel is located. Or relax at the hotel.

Day 9 Buenos Aires • Fly to El Calafate

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

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today we'll depart for the renowned and rugged land of Patagonia. 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.

We kick off our discoveries with a flight bound for El Calafate, a town near Argentina's border with Chile.

Lunch: On your own—you might want to pick up something at the airport to enjoy during your flight.

Afternoon: On arrival in El Calafate, we drive to our hotel and check in. You'll have time this afternoon to explore Calafate on your own.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: The rest of the evening is free for you to do as you'd like. To sample the town's entertainment, head to Avenida del Libertador, where pubs and restaurants abound.

Day 10 El Calafate • A Day in the Life of a Patagonian ranch

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

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today we enjoy a window into Patagonian ranch life when we experience **A Day in the Life** of a family-owned working *estancia*. The area's sweeping grasslands are ideal for sheep herding and farming, which has been one of the primary sources of income here since the

end of the 19th century. On arrival at the ranch, we'll meet with the owners and talk about what life is like living and working here.

Lunch: We'll enjoy a lunch of barbecued lamb at the ranch—the iconic dish that President Obama sampled during his first visit to the region.

Afternoon: After lunch, we return to the hotel. The rest of the afternoon is yours to do with as you wish. Perhaps you'll stroll through Parque Anfiteatro del Bosque, a lively park. Discover the Argentinean Museum of Toys. Or browse the arts and crafts, leather goods, and more at the log-cabin-like stalls of the Gnome Village.

Dinner: On your own—you might ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions for a hidden gem favored by locals.

Evening: The evening is free to again experience the pubs and restaurants of El Calafate. Or, remain at the hotel and enjoy a relaxing evening.

Day 11 El Calafate • Perito Moreno Glacier

• Optional wine tasting tour

- Destination: Los Glaciares National Park
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Calafate Parque Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Depart for Los Glaciares National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site home to nearly 50 large glaciers. Stretching across more than 1,700 miles, it is the second largest park in Argentina and is partially covered by a giant icecap—the largest continental ice extension after Antarctica. Unlike most other glaciers, the icy marvels at Los Glaciares formed at lower altitudes: nearly 5,000 feet above sea level. The

lower points of origin are a boon to visitors, as they offer exclusive access—both visually and physically—to the glaciers.

We'll take advantage of this access when we visit Perito Moreno Glacier, a pristine marvel towering nearly 200 feet above Lake Argentino. Led by a local guide, we'll explore this natural point of interest on foot and have an opportunity to ask any questions we may have. The constant, cyclical movement of Perito Moreno's ice mass often forces the glacier to "calve." 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 that reverberate through the surrounding area. 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 this magnificent display of nature's sheer force.

Lunch: Enjoy a boxed lunch in the park.

Afternoon: We continue our exploration of the park this afternoon before returning to El Calafate. You can relax at the hotel or perhaps check out some of the boutiques along the small town's main street that feature fine leather goods and locally made chocolates and baked goods.

Or, you may join an optional wine tasting 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: On your own—El Calafate offers a wide array of choices, or dine at the hotel restaurant.

Evening: Your evening is at leisure. Perhaps you'll catch up on your travel journal or enjoy a quiet drink with new friends at the hotel bar.

Day 12 El Calafate • Overland to Torres del Paine National Park, Chile

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

Activity Note: Expect a motorcoach 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 and embark on a hike of Torres del Paine National Park. Please note that you must have your passport readily accessible, as our passports will be checked. This process can take up to a few hours, depending on the number of people crossing that day.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today, we travel for the full day overland from El Calafate, Argentina to Torres del Paine, Chile. There will be photo stops along the way, as well as a stop at the border to have our passports checked.

Lunch: We will have lunch together at the border.

Afternoon: We set off for Torres del Paine after lunch. Torres del Paine is a Chilean national park widely considered to be South America's finest—and one of the most remote places in the world. We'll spend two nights here, giving us time to hike winding trails over rippling currents; witness the ostrich-like rhea (known locally as *nandu*), condor, fox, and other wildlife protected by this UNESCO Biosphere Reserve site; and take in the views of snow-capped mountains rising dramatically over mirror-smooth lakes and flowering fields.

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. This granite

intrusion—one of the most recognizable mountain profiles in the world—was formed about twelve million years ago, when 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, water and wind carved the rock into huge towers of varying shapes, at heights of up to 9,000 feet.

The glaciers of the park are in quick retreat—up to 56 feet a year for the last 90 years. Many parts of the park were too remote for cattle and sheep ranchers, and so they exist today in a pristine state.

From the park, we proceed to check in to our hotel, where you'll have time to settle in.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: You are free to retire early tonight, after your long travel day. Or you might enjoy a nightcap in the hotel bar.

Day 13 Explore Torres del Paine National Park

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

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today we'll explore the rugged majesty of Torres del Paine during a pair of optional scenic hikes, both led by local guides.

More than 40 species of mammals make their home in the park, including *guanaco* (related to the llama and the camel) and the rarely-sighted puma. Some of the world's rarest bird species—the Andean condor, the crested caracara, and the black vulture among them—are found here as well. Keep your eyes peeled for the elusive Patagonian gray fox lurking stealthily in the surrounding bush. With the

help of your Trip Experience Leader and an experienced local naturalist, you might be able to spot and identify some of Patagonia's most majestic wildlife.

Lunch: We'll stop for a boxed lunch in the park.

Afternoon: We'll step off on our second hike after lunch. Continue to marvel at the flora and fauna that surround you, enhanced by the insights of your Trip Experience Leader.

After returning to the hotel, you have the rest of the afternoon at leisure to admire the scenic splendor of this setting on a stroll around the grounds.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: The rest of the evening is free. You might take the opportunity to retire early, or enjoy conversation with fellow travelers in the hotel bar.

Day 14 Torres del Paine • Overland to Puerto Natales • Embark ship

- Destination: Puerto Natales
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Skorpios III*

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to Puerto Natales via Del Toro Lake. Your local guide will point out the dramatic contours of the landscape—stay on the lookout for *guanacos* and condors winging overhead. Upon arrival in Puerto Natales, we'll board the 90-passenger M/V *Skorpios III* for our Chilean fjord cruise. After embarking, we'll have time to settle into our cabins and take part in a safety briefing.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: Late this afternoon, our ship arrives at Caleta Juarez in Guardramiro Fjord, where we'll embark on the first Zodiac excursion of

our adventure. As we zip across the turquoise waters, keep an eye out for elephant seals lounging on shore. From there, we'll continue sailing through the Kirke Narrows toward Bernardo O'Higgins National Park, home to the furthest floes of the massive Southern Patagonian Ice Field. Our ship is the only one that sails this particular route. As we follow the path of Darwin and FitzRoy, we'll be able to witness the ever-shifting palette of light and shadow on the mountains, sea, and ice without distraction. Unfortunately, due to global warming, this remarkable area is under threat and scientists predict the landscape will change rapidly in the coming years.

Dinner: To celebrate the start of our cruise, we'll sit down to a Welcome Dinner.

Evening: The evening is free. Perhaps you'll wander to the upper deck to watch the waves sparkling with starlight.

Day 15 Cruise glaciers

- Destination: Chilean fjords
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Skorpios III*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: Every slip of land we've traveled in Chile was once covered by the Patagonian Ice Sheet, which stretched all the way to the Andes. The remaining Southern Patagonian Ice Field still sprawls nearly 5,000 square miles. Expedition teams have only crossed the full length of the ice field once, and many parts remain still unvisited. Most of what is known to explorers is accessible only by helicopter—or by boat, a rare experience we'll get to enjoy.

This morning, we'll cruise through the the Pitt Channel en route to Guillard fjord, a narrow stretch of water surrounded on all sides by glaciers whose origins were as volcanoes in the Southern Ice Field. Upon arrival, we'll

disembark to discover these glaciers from a different vantage point: either on foot, or from the sedimentary moraine left behind by the moving glaciers.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: Following lunch, we'll explore more of this glacial landscape aboard Zodiac crafts before our ship sails on to Sarratea Bay. Upon arrival, we'll board our Zodiacs once again to get up close to the bay's gentle hills and lush vegetation.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: The evening is free. Perhaps you'll settle into a comfortable chair with a good book in one of the ship's two lounges.

Day 16 Cruise glaciers

- Destination: Chilean fjords
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Skorprios III*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: Today we have the privilege of exploring three smaller fjords, each with its own character. Our small group will board Zodiac crafts that allow us to enter these fjords. We'll disembark on a nearby beach for a walk over sand and rocks to get a closer look at the Amalia glacier.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: This afternoon, we cruise onward towards the El Brujo glacier—so vividly blue it seems almost lit from within. Weather permitting, we'll go ashore for panoramic views from a rock. Finally, we navigate Calvo Fjord, a glacier-filled alley of bobbing ice. We'll board an icebreaker boat, the *Capitán Constantino*, to sail through the choppy ice and get closer.

Afterward, you will have time to do as you please aboard ship, perhaps capturing your experiences in your travel journal, sharing your impressions with your travel mates, or joining a presentation led by an expert member of the crew. While the topic of these presentations may vary, you might learn about the effects of climate change on the fjords or about the indigenous people who inhabited the region. Be sure to be on deck at sunset, however, when the fading light casts a glow over the glaciers.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: The evening is free. Perhaps you'll settle into a comfortable chair with a good book in one of the ship's two lounges.

Day 17 Cruise glaciers • Captain's Farewell Dinner

- Destination: Chilean fjords
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Skorprios III*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: Today we discover the Las Montañas Fjord, which threads between the Cordillera Sarmiento and the Cordillera Riesco mountain ranges. Cordillera Sarmiento includes The White Lady, a 7,000-foot peak, while the Cordillera Riesco is best known for Grupo la Paz, a cluster of jagged rock towers.

Our small group will embark expedition boats to cruise through the bay of the Alsina Glacier. In these smaller vessels, we are able to thoroughly explore this mountain-ringed bay and get up close to the fjords' glaciers. Then, we visit Bernal Glacier, where our boats drop us off for a walk through a small rain forest to a glacial lagoon, and then onward to the front of the glacier itself.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: After lunch, your afternoon is free. Relax in your cabin or one of the ship's two lounges. Tea and pastries will be served in the mid-afternoon, and at any time, you are free to prolong your admiration of this continually unfolding white wilderness by taking in the view from the upper deck.

Continuing on past Herman and Zamudio glaciers, we'll arrive at Angostura White, where we'll embark exploration crafts for a cruise. Keep your eyes peeled for the diverse species that populate these waters: Peale's dolphins, seals, upland geese, petrels, cormorants, and albatrosses.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: After dinner, continue to celebrate your voyage with music and dance during a Farewell Party.

Day 18 Disembark ship • Fly to Santiago

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

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: After disembarking the *Skorpios III*, we'll transfer to the airport in Puerto Natales.

Lunch: On your own—your Trip Experience Leader will have suggestions.

Afternoon: Our flight to Santiago departs after lunch. Upon arrival late this afternoon, we'll make our way to our hotel.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader would be happy to recommend options.

Evening: The evening is free to explore the hotel and settle into your room, or you may venture out to experience Santiago at night. Your Trip Experience Leader or the front desk can offer suggestions.

Day 19 Explore Santiago • Allende & Pinochet conversation • Farewell Dinner

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

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll converse with an invited speaker about the Allende Years and Pinochet Coup that took place between 1969 and 1973, as they marked a period of contention between Chile and the United States. Although Chile was once a model for political stability in South America, the years that socialist president Salvador Allende was in power changed everything. Political disputes, social unrest, and the economic influence of President Richard Nixon culminated in a coup d'état, ultimately resulting in Allende's death.

We'll then depart with a local guide to explore the hub of Chile's historic capital. Set against a backdrop of Andean peaks, Santiago has witnessed a remarkable history, from settlement by *conquistadors* in 1541 to the Marxist, military, and democratic governments of the 20th century. This morning, we'll venture to La Moneda Palace, the seat of Chile's government, which served as the setting for the violent military coup. Afterwards, we'll ride to the top of San Cristobal Hill for panoramic views overlooking the city.

Lunch: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to provide some suggestions.

Afternoon: Free to explore this vibrant city on your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can provide activity suggestions.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: Free to do as you'd like on your last night in Santiago. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Day 20 Santiago • Winery visit • Return to U.S. or begin your post-trip extension

- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: InterContinental Santiago or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll drive to Cousiño Macul Winery, a charming family-owned winery. Cousiño Macul is located in the Maipo Valley, Chile's most prestigious wine-producing region, sometimes referred to as "the Bordeaux

of South America." With its consistently sunny weather and cooler evenings, the Maipo Valley is the ideal setting to produce fruity, full-bodied red wines like cabernet sauvignon—as we'll discover during our tasting today.

Upon arrival, we'll learn about Chilean winemaking, tour the winery, and have the chance to taste some of the vintages. We'll end the morning with a toast to our adventure in Chile.

Lunch: On your own in Santiago.

Afternoon: The afternoon is yours to relax in the lounge or have a last walk along the boulevards of Santiago.

Later, transfer to the airport, where you will catch your flight home. Travelers taking our *Santiago & Easter Island's Sacred Sites* post-trip extension will spend the night in Santiago.

END YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

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

Day 1 Santiago

Day 2 Fly to Easter Island • Visit Orongo & Rano Kao Volcano

Day 3 Discover *moai* at Ahu Tongariki, Te Pito Kura, and Anakena Beach

Day 4 Ahu Akivi • Sunset at Tahai Beach

Day 5 Fly to Santiago

Day 6 Santiago • Visit local market • Return to U.S.

OPTIONAL TOURS

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

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

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

Great Adventure

(Day 6 \$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.

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.

Wine Tasting

(Day 11 \$40 per person)

This optional wine tasting tour brings us to La Tienda de Vinos in El Calafate, where we'll enjoy an immersive experience amidst the backdrop of Patagonia charm. We'll be joined by a local sommelier who will share their expertise

PRE-TRIP

Brazil's Atlantic Coast: Exuberant Rio de Janeiro & Colonial Salvador de Bahia

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » Roundtrip airfare between Rio and Salvador
- » 5 nights accommodation
- » 10 meals: 5 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 3 dinners
- » 4 small group activities
- » Services of our local Trip Experience Leader
- » Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- » All transfers

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Day 1 Depart U.S.

- Destination: Buenos Aires

Head to the airport to catch your overnight flight to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Day 2 Arrive in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- Destination: Rio de Janeiro
- Included Meals: Dinner
- Accommodations: Porto Bay Rio Internacional Hotel or similar

Afternoon: Arrive in Rio, where you'll be greeted by an O.A.T. representative who will assist with your transfer to the hotel. You'll have some time to settle in and unpack.

Later this afternoon, meet your Trip Experience Leader and fellow travelers for an orientation walk. This walk will not only acquaint us with the legendary Copacabana neighborhood in which our hotel is located, but will also be our first look at some of Rio's most famous features, including Copacabana Beach and Sugarloaf Mountain in the distance. As the

home of bossa nova, world-famous beaches, and a renowned annual carnival, Rio is a city known for its exuberant zest for life. With lush mountain peaks jutting upward dramatically from a sand-wrapped coastline, it's a city blessed as much with natural beauty as with cosmopolitan delights.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: We'll return to our hotel after dinner, and the remainder of the evening is yours. You might choose to go for a stroll along the beach or simply return to your room to relax.

Day 3 Fly to Salvador de Bahia

- Destination: Salvador de Bahia
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Novotel Salvador Rio Vermelho or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the airport for our flight to Salvador, in the Brazilian state of Bahia. This is northern Brazil's largest city, a UNESCO World

Heritage Site, and a center of Afro-Brazilian culture: More than 80% of the population consists of descendants of Africans who were brought to Brazil during the slave era.

Lunch: On your own. We'll be en route to Salvador at lunchtime, so you may want to purchase a sandwich or snack at the airport to enjoy during our flight.

Afternoon: Upon arrival in Salvador, we'll transfer to our hotel and check in. After we settle in, our Trip Experience Leader will take us on a brief orientation walk that will acquaint us with the neighborhood surrounding our hotel. Then, we'll make our way to a scenic spot where we'll toast to our discoveries in Brazil as we watch the sun set into the sea.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to recommend options nearby.

Evening: Free for independent discoveries. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Day 4 Explore Salvador

- Destination: Salvador de Bahia
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Novotel Salvador Rio Vermelho or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll set off on a full-day tour of Salvador this morning, beginning in the Pelourinho neighborhood. Known locally as *Pelo*, it is a district of great beauty and some tragic legacies. The pastel facades of the centuries-old buildings surrounding the cobbled triangular plaza speak to the elegance of the colonial era, but the very name—which means pillory, or whipping post—speaks to the brutality of the slave trade that occurred on these same streets.

We'll also witness the San Francisco Church and Convent, built over the course of a hundred years in the 17th and 18th centuries. Though its twin spires and classic façade are attractive, it's the interior of San Francisco that dazzles: The ceiling is crisscrossed with paintings outlined in interlocking geometric patterns of wooden framing, and Lisbon tiles outline the lower walls with scenes from the life of St. Francis of Assisi.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Following lunch, the balance of your day is free to do as you'd like.

Dinner: On your own; check with your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: Free to take an evening stroll, or enjoy a nightcap with fellow travelers.

Day 5 Explore Salvador • Bahia folklore show

- Destination: Salvador de Bahia
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Novotel Salvador Rio Vermelho or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: This morning, we'll set out to explore a local market. The market sells everything from fresh tropical fruits, fish, and meats to artisanal handcrafts. This is an excellent opportunity to see how locals live and shop. Then, we venture to Salvador's seaside Lower City. A highlight here is the 18th-century Church of *Senhor do Bonfim* (The Lord of the Good End). Built in the 18th century to house a statue of Christ carried to this spot all the way from Lisbon by a sea captain, the church is this area's most prominent house of worship.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: We'll return to our hotel after lunch, and you'll have some time to relax, explore independently, or freshen up before dinner.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: Following dinner, we'll enjoy a Bahia folklore show that includes a demonstration of *capoeira*, a martial art developed by Afro-Brazilian slaves. The acrobatic movements are quite dance-like and set to music—a clever deception that helped the slaves conceal the fact that they were honing their combat skills.

Morning: Meet up with fellow travelers and begin your *Exploring South America: Rio, Buenos Aires, Patagonia & Chilean Fjords* adventure later today.

Day 6 Salvador • Fly to Rio de Janeiro

- Destination: Rio de Janeiro
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Porto Bay Rio Internacional Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for our flight to Rio de Janeiro.

Lunch: On your own—you might like to pick up something at the airport to enjoy on the flight.

Afternoon: We'll arrive in Rio in the early afternoon and transfer to our hotel. You'll have some free time to relax, settle in, or explore more of Brazil's capital city on your own.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: If you haven't already, you might want to try a Caipirinha, a quintessentially Brazilian cocktail made with *cachaça* (a sugarcane liquor) and lime.

Day 7 Rio de Janeiro • Begin main trip

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

POST-TRIP

Santiago & Easter Island's Sacred Sites

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » Roundtrip airfare between Santiago and Easter Island
- » 5 nights accommodation
- » 9 meals: 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 1 dinner
- » 5 guided tours and cultural activities
- » Services of our local Trip Experience Leader
- » Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- » All transfers

POST-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 Santiago

- Destination: Santiago
- Accommodations: InterContinental Santiago or similar

Afternoon: After your fellow travelers from your *Exploring South America: Rio, Buenos Aires, Patagonia & Chilean Fjord Cruise* adventure depart for the airport, remain in Santiago, where you'll have the rest of the day at leisure. At the Plaza de Armas, the heart of the city, you can admire the stately Metropolitan Cathedral and Royal Palace, browse the collections of the Chilean Museum of Pre-Columbian Art, or simply people-watch as the everyday life of the city flows around you. Wander among the galleries and boutiques of the Bellavista neighborhood, and pay a call on La Chascona, the former home of Noble Prize-winning literary giant Pablo Neruda. Or stroll among the bustling stalls at the Mercado Central (Central Market).

Dinner: On your own—the hotel offers several choices, from casual to elegant. Or step outside the hotel to find an array of options, including Chilean, Asian, Italian, simple snacks and sandwiches, and more.

Evening: You are welcome to explore the nightlife of the city. There are several restaurants and clubs within walking distance of the hotel.

Day 2 Fly to Easter Island • Visit Orongo & Rano Kao Volcano

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

Activity Note: Today's flight to Easter Island is expected to take about five hours.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the airport and check in to our flight to Easter Island, named by a Dutchman who discovered the island on Easter Sunday, 1722. Located in the southeastern Pacific Ocean, the island is a special territory of Chile. Today, it is home to around 3,000 Rapa Nuians, descended from the Polynesians. Their ancestors were responsible for the *moai* stone sculptures that grace the landscape. The history of Easter Island is rich and controversial, and its inhabitants have suffered from internal fighting, slave raids, and destruction of the ecosystem over the years. In modern times, the population has slowly recovered.

Lunch: On your own. You might pick up something at the airport to enjoy during your flight.

Afternoon: Upon arrival, we'll transfer to our hotel and check in. You'll have free time to refresh in your room or take a dip in the pool.

Later, we'll set out for one of the most scenic spots on the island, the former ceremonial village of Orongo. At Rano Kao Volcano, we'll view the freshwater lake that has formed in the crater's depths, as well as 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 birdman images (half-man, half-bird) in rock.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: The rest of the evening is at leisure to relax in your room or enjoy the hotel's amenities.

Day 3 Discover *moai* at Ahu Tongariki, Te Pito Kura, and Anakena Beach

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

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Discover the island's famed *moai*—giant monoliths whose origin and meaning have sparked great speculation. Nearly 900 of these 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.

Today we'll do a loop of the island, making several stops along the way. We'll begin by following in the footsteps of an ancient civilization to various *ahus*—sacred sites where several *moai* stand. At Ahu Vaihu, we get a chance to view *moai* in an unrestored state, and then continue to Ahu Tongariki's impressive collection of 15 restored *moai* carved from the quarries of nearby Rano Raraku Volcano.

Lunch: Enjoy a boxed lunch.

Afternoon: We'll head to Pito Kura, which today lies on the ground but—at 32 feet in length—is considered the largest *moai* once erected on an *ahu*. Finally, we'll explore pristine Anakena Beach, where the first Polynesian settlers are believed to have landed and where we'll find six more *moai*. Here, you'll have time at leisure to sample locally prepared dishes from food stands, visit local kiosks showcasing authentic Rapa Nui handcrafts, and admire the palm trees and crystal-clear waters.

Dinner: On your own. You might dine on regional specialties at the hotel restaurant, or ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions for restaurants in the neighborhood.

Evening: The rest of the evening is free. Perhaps you'll enjoy views of the sea and stars by the pool. Or, if the Cultural Ballet Kari Kari is performing, you might want to take in a show of traditional Rapa Nui song and dance.

Day 4 Ahu Akivi • Sunset at Tahai Beach

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

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: You are free to pursue your own interests this morning. Perhaps you'll take a dip in the hotel pool or rent a bicycle. Or visit the picturesque Holy Cross Church of Hanga Roa.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Visit the seven *moai* of Ahu Akivi, one of the only inland *ahus* on the island. The astronomical orientation of this complex allowed the Rapa Nui people conform their farming practices to the change of seasons. We'll also view Puna Pau, the extinct volcano where the stone for the topknots you see on some *moai* was quarried, and Ahu Huri a Urenga, whose solitary *moai* faces the sunrise at the winter solstice.

The rest of your day is free. Perhaps you'll spend a little reflective time at the Cementerio de Isla de Pascua, gazing out over the quaint headstones to the sea. Stroll the streets of downtown Hanga Roa, the island's capital and only urban center. Or learn more about local history and culture at the Museo Antropológico Sebastián Englert.

Dinner: On your own—you might sample *empanadas* at one of several options near the hotel, or choose from restaurants specializing in seafood, Polynesian, Dominican, and other cuisines.

Evening: Later this evening, we'll watch the sun set at Tahai Beach, illuminating the *moai* in shades of pink and orange.

Day 5 Fly to Santiago

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

Activity Note: Today's flight to Santiago is expected to take about five hours.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll depart for the airport for our flight to Santiago.

Lunch: On your own—you might pick up a snack during your free time in Hanga Roa or at the airport.

Afternoon: Upon arrival, we'll transfer to our downtown hotel and check in.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader will happily recommend restaurants. Perhaps you'll seek out Chile's famed seafood, or explore the many options on Isadora Goyenechea, an area popular with local diners and visitors alike.

Evening: Relax at the hotel or immerse yourself in Santiago's vibrant nightlife.

Day 6 Santiago • Visit local market • Return to U.S.

- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Visit Los Dominicos Artisan Village, a market housed in a former cloisters where local artisans sell their work. As we browse the shops, we'll see terracotta dishes and painted tiles, traditional woven sweaters, and jewelry made with lapis lazuli—a stone found only here in Chile and in Afghanistan. We also may see the artisans themselves, who are often at work in their shops and can show us their artistic process and answer any questions we may have.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: You'll have a dayroom available for your use this afternoon; otherwise you are free to spend a final few hours exploring Santiago on your own. Later, transfer to the airport, where you will catch your flight home.

YOUR M/V SKORPIOS III SMALL SHIP

Explore aboard a 90-passenger small ship

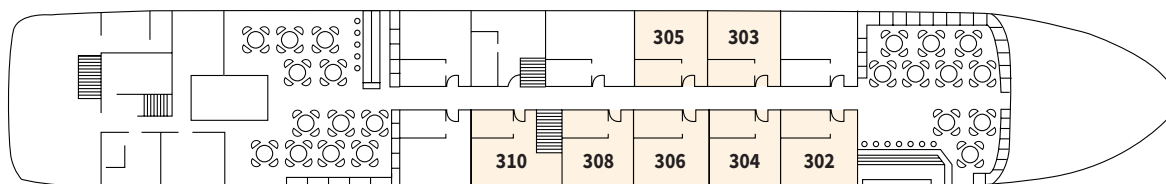
Spend three nights cruising the glacier-lined Chilean fjords aboard the chartered M/V *Skorpios III*. Originally built in 1995, and remodeled in 2012, this 90-passenger ship was expertly designed to navigate icy waters, and is the only ship to sail this particular route. While aboard, our group of 20-25 travelers (with an average of 22) may relax in two bar lounges, and take in panoramic views from Sun Deck or the dining room, where regional cuisine and wines will be served. While we'll join others aboard the ship, some of whom may include researchers and scientists, we'll enjoy our own section of dining tables and cabins.



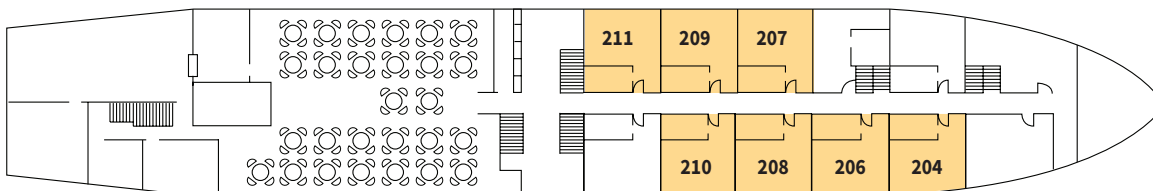
SHIPBOARD FEATURES

- **Dining areas:** Our group will enjoy open seating at our reserved dining tables. Regional cuisine and complimentary wine and beer will be served with each meal.
- **Indoor common areas:** In addition to the panoramic dining room, you may also spend time in the ship's two comfortable bar lounges.
- **Outdoor common areas:** Relax on the ship's open-air Sun Deck where you can take in stunning views of the fjords.
- **Icebreaker boats:** From our expedition ship, we'll board smaller, specialized icebreaker boats to go ashore, getting close enough to touch some of the towering glaciers that line the icy fjords.

M/V SKORPIOS III



Parthenon Deck



Acropolis Deck

O.A.T. may use a different ship depending on the trip departure date. This deck plan is typical but ships may vary slightly in size and facilities.

Registry: Chile

Length: 230 ft.

Beam: 33 ft.

Draft: 11 ft.

Built: 1995

Renovated: 2012

Cabin Size: 161 sq. ft.

Number of Cabins: 45

Passenger Capacity: 90

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

Cabin Categories

 A	Parthenon: Cabins on middle passenger deck
 B	Acropolis: Cabins on second lowest passenger deck

CABIN FEATURES

- 45 cabins with an average size of 161 sq. ft.
- Two twin beds (or one double-sized)
- Most cabins have windows
- Private bath with shower
- Plasma TV, background music, AC, mini-bar and in-room safe



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 adventure.

- **Main trip only:** If you are taking only the main trip, you will require 6 blank passport pages.
- **Pre-trip extension to Brazil:** This extension does not require any additional pages.
- **Post-trip to Chile:** This extension does not require any additional pages.

Visas 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 information is for U.S. citizens only. All visas and fees are subject to change.

- **Argentina and Chile:** No visas required for stays of up to 30 days.
- **Brazil: Visa required.** Starting April 2025, a visa is required in advance to visit Brazil.

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.

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 aboard a ship in 19 days

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Not appropriate for travelers using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids
- You must be able to walk approximately 3 miles unassisted and be comfortable participating in 6-8 hours of physical activities each day
- Agility and balance are required for boarding or disembarking small motor boats
- Our small ship is not equipped with an elevator, so passengers are expected to use stairs between cabins and the dining room
- 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

CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures average 50-60° F in the Andes and Patagonia and 75-100°F in Iguassu and Rio de Janeiro
- Rain or high winds are possible at any time in the Andes and Patagonia, while Iguassu and Rio's tropical climates feature high humidity and tropical rains during summer

TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- Travel over city streets, rugged paths, hard sand, icy surfaces, and bumpy and icy roads; walk and hike through uneven terrain and high winds on 3 treks of about 2 hours each
- Travel by air-conditioned minibus
- Cruise aboard a 90-passenger small ship shared with other travelers; we'll also board small motor boats for excursions during our cruise
- Two overland drives of 3 hours each and a 10-12 hour drive and border crossing
- 4 internal flights of 2-5 hours each

ACCOMMODATIONS & FACILITIES

- Hotel rooms are smaller than those in the U.S. and offer basic amenities
- 4 nights aboard a small ship with full hotel amenities
- All accommodations feature private baths with showers

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)

No Vaccines Required

Yellow Fever Vaccination: Recommended

The CDC recommends that you get the Yellow Fever vaccination for Brazil and Argentina (Iguassu Falls), 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: *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 these countries make a last-minute change to their entry policies 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
- Anti-malaria medication is recommended but you should check with the CDC and your doctor first because these medications can have strong side effects.
- For travelers on the Machu Picchu post-trip extension: Altitude sickness medication – Cuzco is roughly 11,000 feet above sea level. At this altitude, almost everyone feels some of the symptoms of Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), including headache, nausea, loss of appetite, trouble sleeping, and lack of energy.

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 Chile and Argentina, 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.
- Tap water is not safe to drink in Brazil. Drink only bottled, filtered, or boiled water.
- On the cruise ship, either bottled water or safe water for your own reusable water bottle is provided free of charge.

Food

We’ve carefully chosen the restaurants for your group meals. Fruits and vegetables are safe to eat in Chile and Argentina, but you should not eat fruits and vegetables that have been washed when you are in Brazil.

Insect Repellent

At time of writing there were reports of dengue fever in the Iguassu Falls area. 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 these countries.
- **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 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.

Brazil: Brazilian Real (R\$)

Argentina: Argentine Peso (\$)

Chile: Chilean Peso (\$)

How to Exchange Money

On your trip, the easiest way is to withdraw funds from a local ATM. The ATM will give you local money and your bank at home will convert that into U.S. dollars.

You can also exchange cash at some hotels, large post offices, and money exchange offices. To exchange cash, you'll usually need your passport and bills in good condition (not worn, torn, or dirty). New bills (post 2014) are best. 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.

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

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.

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

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

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:** Your Trip Experience Leader will tip waiters for included meals. When dining on your own, it varies by country. In Argentina and Chile waiters expect a 10% cash tip. In Brazil, a 10% service charge is added to the bill, so there's no need to leave an additional amount unless service is especially good.
- **Included in Your Trip Price:** Gratuities are included for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters on your main trip, extensions, and all optional tours.

Please note: Tips are quoted in U.S. dollars for budgeting purposes; tips are usually preferred 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 also note that the tour will end on Day 19 of the main trip (Day 24 of the Santiago & Easter Island post-trip) for your overnight flight back to the United States.

Airport Transfers Can Be Purchased

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

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

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

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

Optional Tours

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

What You Need to Know

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

Communicating with Home from Abroad

Cell Phones

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

Calling Apps

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

Calling Cards and 1-800 Numbers

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

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

Internet

Most hotels in South America offer WiFi in the rooms.

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.

Brazil: +55

Chile: +56

Argentina: +54

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	<p>If your regional flights are on LATAM, Azul, or Gol, the weight limit for this adventure is 50 lbs for checked bags and 17 lbs for a carry-on.</p> <p>If any of your regional flights are 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.</p>
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-shell suitcase.
TRIP EXTENSION(S) LIMITS	
Same as the 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.

Luggage storage on extension to Santiago & Easter Island: If you wish, you will be able to leave a bag with some clothes at the hotel in Santiago during your extension, to be picked up when you return. If you would like to take advantage of this “left luggage” service, please bring a second bag with a lock to hold the items you want the hotel to store.

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 driving excursions and walking trips. Consider a backpack or waistpack that keeps both hands free and distributes the pack’s weight onto your back or hips.

Locks

For flights that originate in the U.S., you can either use TSA-approved locks or leave your luggage unlocked. Outside of the U.S., we strongly recommend that you lock your luggage as a preventative measure against theft.

Clothing Suggestions

Functional Tips

You will experience a wide range of temperatures and weather conditions, from hot and humid to cold, windy, and rainy. Therefore, we suggest several layers of clothing. You'll want light rain gear for Rio de Janeiro and Iguassu as well as waterproof gear for Patagonia. If you like to hand-wash your clothes, look for fabrics that will dry out overnight. You can buy clothing designed especially for travel, with features like wrinkle-resistant fabric or built-in sun protection.

- **Dress in layers:** You can add or remove layers according to weather shifts, especially for traveling to the tip of South America. Suggestions include turtlenecks, long-sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, a warm jacket, long underwear, etc. in addition to light summer clothing for warmer areas.
- **Warm clothing:** We suggest a warm sweater, a windproof jacket, gloves, and a hat for your time in Patagonia (Calafate and Paine) and onboard the ship. These mountainous areas are cool year-round, and it has been known to snow at the higher elevations even in summer.
- **Walking shoes:** You'll be on your feet and walking a lot, so choose your footwear carefully. You can find especially supportive shoes designed for walking. Light hiking boots are needed for hikes in Patagonia.
- **Hiking sticks/Trekking poles:** Many past travelers have recommended bringing a folding hiking stick (sometimes called a trekking pole) sold in most camping stores. An alternative is a folding ski pole.
- **Rain gear:** You'll want good, light rain gear all year round. Because mist and unpredictable rain occur year-round in the Patagonia region, we strongly suggest you bring a sturdy waterproof shell or jacket (this will also keep you comfortable on windy days), waterproof pants, waterproof shoes, and a rain hat or folding umbrella.

Style Hints

- **Dress on our trip is functional and casual.**
- **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 in Iguassu Falls and Rio de Janeiro
- ☐ Shoes and socks: Comfortable walking/ running shoes or low-cut hiking shoes, with arch support. Light hiking boots might be useful on some days, but are not required. You’ll want at least a couple pairs of heavier socks for active days or hiking.
- ☐ Waterproof gear: Waterproof jacket with a hood, waterproof pants, waterproof gloves
- ☐ Light wool or Polartec fleece jacket: Even in summer, Patagonia can be cool, especially in the mountains.
- ☐ Wide-brim sun hat or visor for sun protection
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Sleepwear
- ☐ Optional: Swimsuit

Essential Items

- ☐ Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, etc. Hotels provide shampoo and soap but usually not washcloths.
- ☐ Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses; sunglasses
- ☐ Sunscreen: SPF 30 or stronger
- ☐ Insect repellent with DEET (we recommend 30–35% strength). Some previous travelers have mentioned that this is more useful on the extensions than on the main trip.

- ☐ Flashlight or headlamp: Consider a small but powerful LED version or a version with an alternative power source (wind-up, solar powered).
- ☐ Pocket-size tissues
- ☐ Moist towelettes (baby wipes) and/or anti-bacterial “water-free” hand cleanser
- ☐ Electrical transformer & plug adapters
- ☐ Camera gear with extra batteries or battery charger. We recommend bringing ziploc bags to protect your camera.

Medicines & First Aid Gear

- ☐ Your own prescription medicines
- ☐ Travel first aid kit: Band-Aids, headache and pain relief, laxatives and anti-diarrhea tablets, something for upset stomach. Maybe a cold remedy, moleskin foot pads, or antibiotic cream.
- ☐ An antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness
- ☐ Optional: A strong prescription pain medication for rare emergency purposes
- ☐ 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, often as part of the *A Day in the Life* experience. It is customary, though not necessary, to return your hosts’ generosity with a small gift. If you do bring a gift, we recommend that you bring something the whole family can enjoy, or something that represents your region, state, or hometown. Get creative and keep it small—peach jelly from Georgia, maple sugar candy from New England, orange blossom soap from California; something that can be used or used up is best. When choosing a gift, be certain to consider the local culture as well. For example, we do not recommend alcohol in Muslim 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 Brazil, 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.)

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.

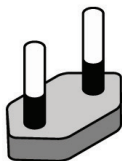
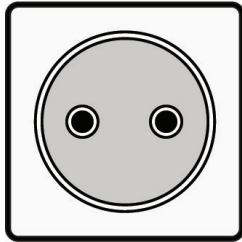
Different plug shapes are named by letters of the alphabet. Standard U.S. plugs are Type A and Type B. Here is the list of plugs for the countries on this trip:

Brazil: C or L

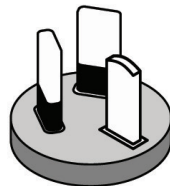
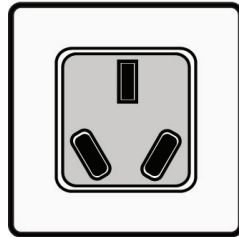
Argentina: I

Chile: C and/or L

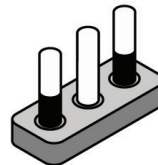
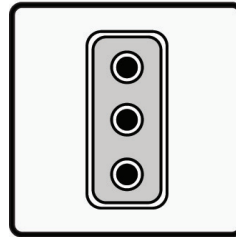
Type C



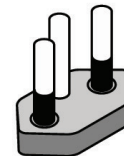
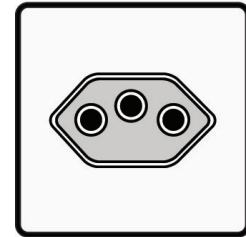
Type I



Type L



Type N



Availability

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

CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Salvador, Brazil: Although a large city, Salvador's climate is reminiscent of a rainforest – warm, sticky, and wet. There is very little variation in temperatures throughout the year. The highs are usually in the 80s; the lows usually in the mid-70s. But with the high humidity and rainfall, it can feel hotter than it actually is. Rain can occur at any time of the year, on any day of any month.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Rio is known as a city of sun, considered to have a climate that is a blend of summer and springtime. There are many more sunny days than rainy ones, although being in a tropical climate the weather can be somewhat unpredictable. Being at sea level near the Tropic of Capricorn, it is warm and often humid year-round. Spring and fall are the more temperate seasons and are very pleasant. The sunny spring days are especially bright and clear, with less humidity than other seasons, contributing to the beauty of long-distance views. Summer, considered to be December into March, can have days that get quite hot, with most of the area's rain falling during this season, although the occasional storms are usually brief.

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.

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.

Calafate, Argentina: Calafate is located 200m above sea level and on the shores of Lake Argentino. In summer the weather is dry, sunny, cool and very windy. The average temperature is in the mid 60s, but it can reach a maximum of 86°F and a minimum of 50°F; winds are very common and on occasion, can reach gusts of over 75 miles per hour.

Torres del Paine, Chile: The weather in Torres del Paine, like most of Patagonia, can be unpredictable and is highly influenced by Antarctica to the south, Pacific Ocean to the west, the Southern Patagonia Ice Fields to the north, and the Andes to the east. The temperature in the summer is mild, with the average high in the mid 60s and low 40s in the winter, with consistent rain during the warmer seasons and strong wind all year round.

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.

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	SALVADOR, BRAZIL			RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	86 to 75	76 to 70	3.4	91 to 74	87 to 58	5.3
FEB	86 to 75	75 to 69	4.9	91 to 74	88 to 56	4.9
MAR	86 to 75	79 to 72	6.3	89 to 73	90 to 59	5.3
APR	84 to 75	81 to 76	12.3	85 to 70	92 to 61	4.3
MAY	82 to 73	82 to 76	12.3	82 to 66	92 to 60	3.1
JUN	80 to 72	80 to 76	9.2	80 to 64	91 to 57	2.0
JUL	79 to 71	80 to 75	8.1	79 to 62	91 to 55	1.8
AUG	80 to 70	77 to 74	5.1	81 to 64	90 to 56	1.8
SEP	81 to 71	76 to 73	3.7	82 to 66	89 to 61	2.4
OCT	83 to 73	81 to 76	4.2	82 to 68	87 to 60	3.2
NOV	84 to 73	82 to 79	4.9	84 to 69	85 to 60	3.9
DEC	84 to 74	81 to 79	4.3	88 to 72	86 to 61	5.4

MONTH	IGUASSU FALLS, ARGENTINA & BRAZIL			BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	88 to 68	80	7.5	87 to 69	86 to 47	4.2
FEB	88 to 68	80	6.3	84 to 67	89 to 52	4.0
MAR	90 to 66	80	6.3	80 to 63	90 to 54	4.0
APR	84 to 61	85	6.7	73 to 57	91 to 59	3.3
MAY	75 to 54	90	7.1	66 to 51	89 to 60	3.1
JUN	73 to 50	90	5.9	60 to 46	89 to 62	2.1
JUL	73 to 50	85	3.9	59 to 45	89 to 62	2.3
AUG	79 to 52	80	5.5	63 to 48	88 to 57	2.3
SEP	81 to 54	80	7.1	66 to 50	87 to 53	2.4
OCT	86 to 59	80	7.5	73 to 55	88 to 56	4.0
NOV	88 to 63	75	8.3	78 to 61	86 to 53	3.6
DEC	90 to 66	75	7.5	83 to 65	86 to 48	3.3

MONTH	CALAFATE, ARGENTINA			TORRES DEL PAINE, CHILE		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)			
JAN	67 to 46	48	0.2			
FEB	66 to 46	48	0.2			
MAR	61 to 41	51	0.3			
APR	54 to 37	59	0.6			
MAY	46 to 32	69	0.8			
JUN	41 to 28	73	0.7			
JUL	41 to 27	73	0.6			
AUG	44 to 29	68	0.6			
SEP	51 to 32	58	0.2			
OCT	58 to 37	51	0.3			
NOV	62 to 41	46	0.1			
DEC	65 to 44	46	0.2			

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

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

M/V *Skorpios*

The 230-foot M/V *Skorpios III* is a 90-passenger expedition ship uniquely designed for cruising the ice-encrusted waters of the Chilean fjords. Onboard, our group can relax in two bar lounges and enjoy the views from the panoramic dining room. We'll enjoy regional cuisine and wines, plus complimentary drinks.

Cabin Amenities

Your cabin features twin beds, a private bathroom with shower, a TV, and a safe.

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 Account at www.oattravel.com/myaccount. 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 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 (8:00 pm) than Americans may be accustomed to. Dinner will be served a la carte, while breakfast and lunch 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

The electricity onboard and in your cabin is 220 volts.

Internet Access and Email

Please note that there is no internet access available on board the ship.

Public Spaces

The ship features a two bar lounges, a panoramic dining room, and a sun deck.

Shipboard Payments

MasterCard and Visa credit cards are accepted for payment in the shop, but since the system is not online during sailing, the charged will be completed at the end of the cruise.

Smoking Policy

Smoking is prohibited on board this vessel.

Elevators

Please note, there is no elevator on board. You will need to use the stairs to go to the dining room.

Ship Specifications

M/V Skorprios III

- **History:** Built in 1995
- **Size:** 230x33 ft
- **Capacity:** 92 passengers
- **Layout:** 44 cabins

ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE

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

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

South American Culture

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

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

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

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

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

Taking Photographs

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.

Brazilian Cuisine

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

- **Feijoada:** A stew with heavy Portuguese influences, made of black beans and pork, with garlic rice, cassava flour, collard greens, and vinaigrette
- **Feijao tropeiro:** Popular in southeastern Brazil and made with collard greens, eggs, beans, bacon, pork, and cassava flour
- **Acaraje with vatapa:** A dish popular in the northeastern region with west African influences, it is made of deep-fried ball of peeled back-eyed peas, onions, and salt, filled with *vaatapa* – a paste of shrimp, coconut milk, bread, ground peanuts, and palm oil, that was brought over by West Africa slaves.

- **Escondidinho de frango com mandioca:** A northeast region dish of chicken hidden under cassava puree
- **Moqueca:** Best known as the Brazilian Fish Stew, this dish is most popular in the northeast, with the ingredients different per region. Common made with some variation of seafood, like shellfish, shrimp, fish, etc., and served with rice
- **Pastel:** A popular street food of flat fried dough filled with melted cheese and minced meat
- **Empada:** Little pies filled with chicken, fish, *palmito* (heart of palm, a vegetable from the inner core of palm trees such as coconut or acai trees), or chocolate
- **Mousse de maracuja:** A dessert mouse made from passion fruits
- **Beijinho:** Originally from Portugal, these truffles were adapted away from almonds to the more local coconut. This dessert is made with sweetened condensed milk, coconut flakes, butter and caster sugar

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

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

Brazil

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

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

Brazil

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

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

National Holidays: Brazil

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

01/01 New Year's Day

04/21 Tiradentes Day

05/01 Labor Day / May Day

09/07 Independence Day

10/12 Our Lady Aparecida / Children's Day

11/02 All Souls Day

11/15 Republic Proclamation Day

12/25 Christmas

Brazil: A Brief History

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

They were granted land rights below a north-south line through an agreement with Spain known as the Treaty of Tordesillas. An expedition commanded by Pedro Alvares Cabral then formally claimed the land on behalf of the King of Portugal. Brazil was finally settled in 1532 by São Vicente. Later, a system of twelve “captaincies” united it under Tome de Souza.

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

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

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

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

31st, 2016. In the 2018 elections, Jair Bolsonaro, the first president of the Republic to graduate from the Armed Forces since the end of the Military Regime, was elected. That same year, during the Senate elections, Rousseff ran for office in Minas Gerais. She placed fourth.

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

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

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

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

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

Brazil

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

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

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

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

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 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

Brazil

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

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

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

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

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

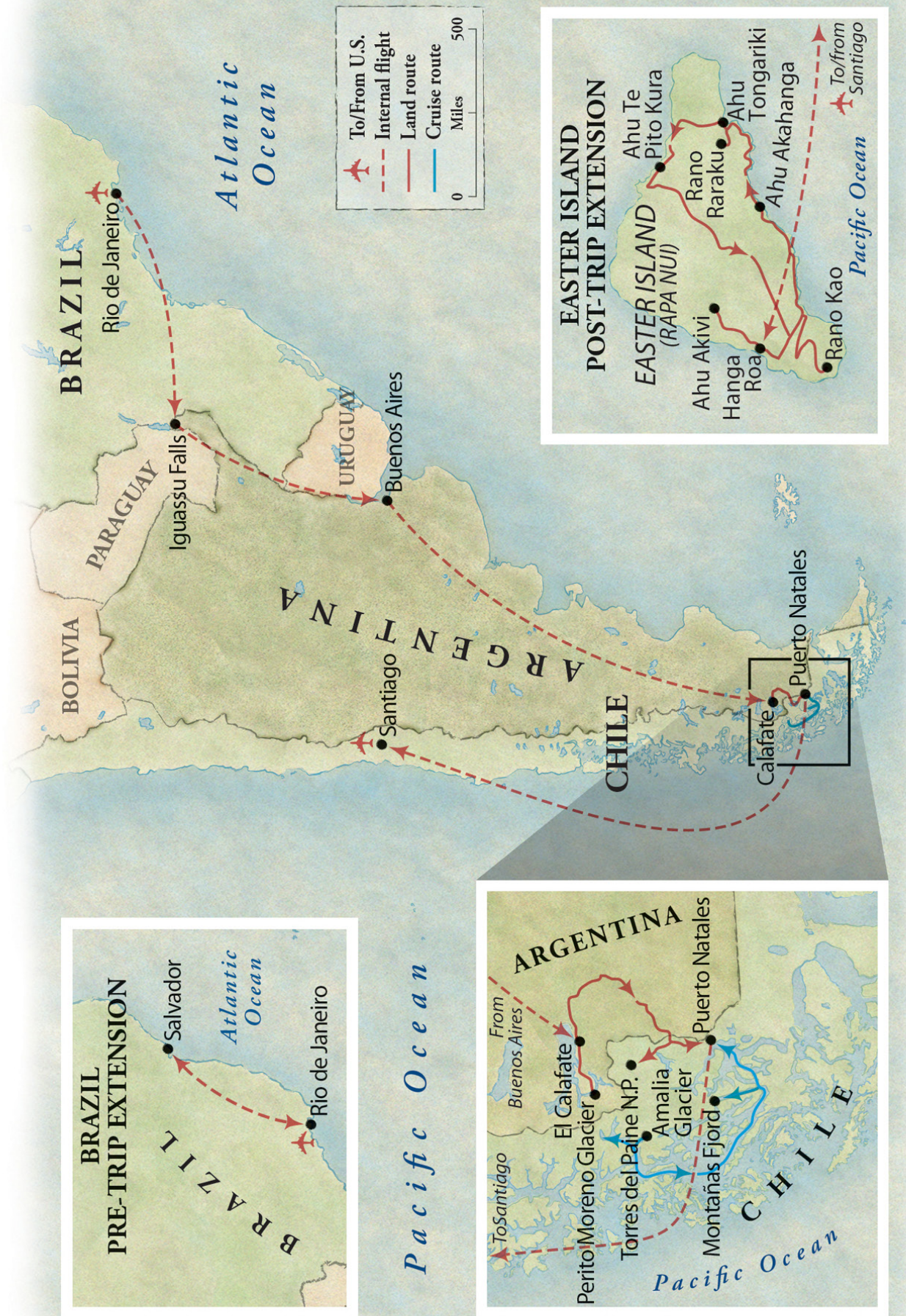
Maps your location and provides emergency numbers for police, medics, and more

GeoSure

Safely navigate neighborhoods around the world

Chirpey

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



SHARE YOUR TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

We invite you to share your videos, slideshows, and photos of your past O.A.T. adventures to help inspire your fellow travelers. Go to www.oattravel.com/myplanner to upload your photos or videos, and they may be featured on our website.

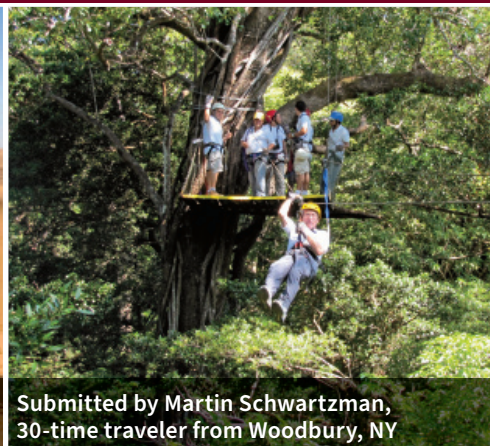
Most Popular Videos, Slideshows & Photos from our O.A.T. Adventures Created by O.A.T. Travelers



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



1-800-955-1925 | www.oattravel.com

CONNECT WITH US:  



World's Best
#4 Best Intimate-Ship
Ocean Cruise Line



Readers' Choice
Named to the Best
Tour Operators list



USA Today
#6 Best Educational
Tour Companies



"Best Tours"
Named one of the
"Best Tours"