PATAGONIA - ESSENTIAL PATAGONIA | ULTRAMARINE



TRIP CODE

ACQEEP

DEPARTURE

20/03/2027, 20/03/2028, 22/03/2029

DURATION

15 Days

LOCATIONS

Chile, Patagonia, Argentina

INTRODUCTION

Discover one of the most incredible fjord systems on Earth as you explore southern Patagonia.
Exploring this captivating coastline by helicopter flightseeing and Zodiac cruises offering two very different perspectives with breathtaking views of some of the world's most secluded and stunning scenery. Cruise near unique tidewater glaciers, discover fascinating wildlife from Magellanic Penguins to South American sea lions and elephant seals. You will explore this region in the pioneering vessel, the Ultramarine, one of the most advanced polar expedition vessels offering a range of adventure options while in style and comfort.

Please Note: On the 20 March 2028 departure has a slightly different itinerary in that Day 14 does not go to Marta Island, but instead stops for a visit to the San Isidro Lighthouse museum offering visitors a chance to explore the region's cultural and natural heritage.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival in Buenos Aires



You may arrive in Buenos Aires at any time during Day 1 of your itinerary. Upon arriving in this splendid city, known for its architecture and rich European heritage, you will independently transfer to your group hotel (pre-expedition hotel night included in mandatory transfer package).

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DAY 2: Fly Ushuaia and Embarkation



After an early breakfast at the hotel, the group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, Argentina. Upon arrival, you will be transferred from the airport to a central downtown location to have some time on your own to explore this quaint port town before making your way to the pier. After a late afternoon embarkation, you will sail along the historic Beagle Channel, which transects the Tierra del Fuego archipelago in the extreme south of South America.

DAY 3: Cape Horn



As we begin our exploration of Chile's southern extent, expect a new adventure every day. Though each expedition will be different, depending on the weather, we aim to start our journey to the "edge of the earth" with a visit to historic Cape Horn (Cabo de Hornos). At the southernmost point of the Tierra del Fuego ("Land of Fire") archipelago, the most isolated place in the Americas, this steep, rocky headland on Hornos Island marks the northern boundary of the famous Drake Passage, where the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans meet. From the 1700s to the early 1900s, prior to the opening of the Panama Canal, this cape was part of a major global trade route. If sea and weather conditions allow, you may go ashore for a hike out to the lighthouse, the tiny Stella Maris ("Star of the Sea") Chapel, and the albatross-shaped monument honoring the many mariners who lost their lives attempting to "round the Horn." Atop the windswept promontory, pause for a moment to take in the panoramic view and to enjoy the peaceful solitude that can only be found at one of the most southern stretches of land in the world. You can even have your passport stamped by the family operating the lighthouse!

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DAY 4: Diego Ramirez Islands

Your ship will then continue cruising farther south, to the Diego Ramírez Islands, the most southern point of South America and one of the least-explored places on the planet. This small archipelago was actually thought to be the southernmost land mass in the world when it was discovered in 1619 by the Spanish Garcia de Nodal expedition. Named after the expedition's cosmographer, the archipelago held this distinction for 156 years, until Capt. James Cook's discovery of the South Sandwich Islands in 1775. Weather permitting, we'll Zodiac cruise around these tussock-grass-covered islands to admire the abundant birdlife. A designated Important Bird Area, and part of the recently-designated Diego Ramirez Islands and Drake Passage Marine Park, the archipelago is home to millions of breeding seabirds, and an exceptional place for birdwatching. Binoculars in hand, birders will marvel at the sight of multiple species of albatross (these islands are the southernmost albatross breeding ground in the world), including black-browed albatross, shy albatross and grey-headed albatross. Sightings of dolphins, South American fur seals, and rockhopper, macaroni and Magellanic penguins are also possible here.



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DAY 5: Glacier Alley - Pia and Garibaldi Glaciers

As our ship sails back north toward the southern edge of Tierra del Fuego, stimulating presentations by your Expedition Team will enrich your knowledge of the glacial systems, geology, environment, wildlife and storied history of the region as you retrace Charles Darwin's historic journey through the Beagle Channel, a 150-mile (240 km) strait separating Tierra del Fuego's main island from several smaller islands. Named after Captain Robert FitzRoy's famous ship on which Charles Darwin was a passenger, the channel presents plenty of photo ops to capture seabirds hovering overhead and dramatic vistas of jagged-peaked mountains and massive tidewater glaciers. Rugged and untouched, this magnificent landscape is as starkly beautiful as it was when Darwin first laid eyes on it in 1833. Glacier Alley (as it's nicknamed) is one of the most spectacular ship passages in Tierra del Fuego. To honour the European countries that first explored the region, the glaciers have taken their names—España (Oblicuo), Romanche, Alemania (Roncagli), Francia, Italia, and Holland Glaciers. As we navigate the fjords, your Expedition Team will keep watch for Andean condors, massive birds rivaled in wingspan by only the wandering albatross.



DAY 6: Dainelli (Aguila) Glacier

Located at the end of a tranquil lagoon surrounded by lush sub-Antarctic forests in Agostini Sound, Dainelli Glacier (sometimes called Aguila—Spanish for "Eagle" Glacier) is a unique sight, as it appears to flow over rolling hills rather than mountains. Cruising aboard a Zodiac toward the blue-tinged wall of ice, conditions permitting, you will be humbled by the wonder of nature's power. We hope to venture ashore for an easy hike along the beach to get a more intensive look at the glacier and surrounding mountains.



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DAY 7: Cruising The Chilean Fjords



Continuing north, we'll navigate through a remote network of coastal fjords and channels, including time spent venturing out into the Pacific Ocean. Your Expedition Team will prepare for the adventures that await, helping you further understand the glacial systems, as well as the flora and fauna that can be found in this part of Chile. Take a moment, as we glide past soaring snow-capped peaks, to contemplate the mariners of long ago who traveled these same sheltered passageways, and were rewarded with the same wondrous sights.

DAY 8: Puerto Natales and Torres Del Paine - Day 8 & 9



Sailing the turquoise waters of the extraordinary stretch of coastline leading to the small port of Puerto Natales, we'll meander through a mesmerizing maze of deep, windswept fjords, narrow channels and isolated bays, with an eye toward the rugged landscape, unique wildlife and impressive glaciers that tumble from the towering mountains into the icy waters below, along with the imperial and king cormorants, South American terns, black-necked swans and southern wigeons (Chiloé wigeons) that frequent the fjord. Torres del Paine National Park is one of the most stunning wilderness areas in South America, and Puerto Natales is the gateway. This enormous park is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, so designated for both its natural wonders and ancient human history, and named for the three granite peaks that tower above the glacier-fed lakes. Enjoy a full day of hiking tailored to your preferred activity level and stopping at lookouts in the park, followed by a traditional Patagonian barbecue in the afternoon. Taking our expedition onto dry land for another full day, we will also visit a working Patagonian estancia ("ranch"), founded in 1891 by Scottish immigrants. Here you will learn about Patagonian sheep farming in a historic pastoral setting. Inhabiting the surrounding grasslands are the ostrich-like rhea, and guanacos, a wild relative of the domestic llama. Complete your cultural experience with a lunch of barbecued lamb al palo ("on a stick"), and return to the ship in the early evening.

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DAY 10: Canal de la Montanas

Cruising the calm, crystal-clear waters of the Canal de las Montañas (“Channel” or “Fjord of the Mountains”) will leave you breathless. You’ll be awed by the amazing series of waterfalls cascading down between the jagged peaks that rise up sharply on either side of the narrow, 41-mile (66 km) long channel dotted with glaciers, five of which spill dramatically into the water. Here, impressive ice fields glisten, and steeply sloped glaciers exceed elevations over 8,235 feet (2,510 meters). The channel also provides an ideal place to put our Zodiacs in the water for more detailed exploring or going ashore for a hike to scenic viewpoints. If you’re feeling more adventurous, perhaps you’ll treat yourself to an optional kayaking excursion (extra cost), an exceptional opportunity to experience the channel from a special perspective.



DAY 11: Tucker Islets

A series of small islands and rocky outcrops in Almirantazgo Sound (“Admiralty Sound”), a small fjord off the Strait of Magellan, Tuckers Islets is a superb location for viewing penguins. Though landing here is prohibited, a Zodiac excursion will take you very near a pebble beach to view a colony of 4,000-plus breeding Magellanic penguins, conditions permitting. Named for Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, whose crew sighted the charming creatures in 1520 during the first circumnavigation of the globe, the species is native to the region, and the sight of them in their burrows, lounging on the beach or waddling in and out of the water, is one you won’t forget. If we’re fortunate, we may also see Chilean skuas, Magellanic cormorants (rock shags), imperial cormorants (king shags), oystercatchers, kelp geese, or even dolphins.



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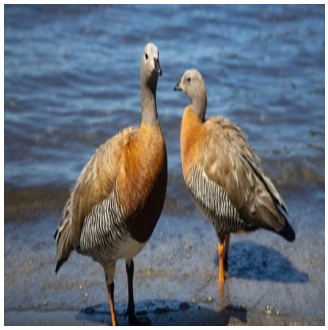
DAY 12: Ainsworth Bay and Islote Albatros

Continuing our exploration of Almirantazgo Sound, we plan to explore ashore at Ainsworth Bay, one of the most picturesque and pristine places in Patagonia. Surrounded by untouched sub-Antarctic forest, this isolated bay is a protected area within the border of Alberto de Agostini National Park. It hosts abundant birdlife, so you'll want to keep your eyes peeled as we cruise in the Zodiacs. Hiking options will be available for all fitness levels, affording panoramic views of Marinelli Glacier, Marinelli Fjord and the surrounding Darwin mountain range. In 2003, a small breeding colony of black-browed albatross was documented on Islote Albatros ("Albatross Islet"), located in Admiralty Sound. Normally albatross are seabirds, nesting and feeding in coastal waters and open ocean; this the first record of a colony of this species in inland waters, feeding mainly in fjords and channels.



DAY 13: Bahia Brookes

Another excellent spot for glacier exploring in Almirantazgo Sound is Bahia Brookes (Brookes Bay), where, conditions permitting, we'll go ashore by Zodiac. The bay offers ample chances for closer views of a number of waterfalls and glaciers, including the calving North Brookes Glacier, set against the breathtaking backdrop of the towering Darwin mountain range. Amid the serene silence of this icy wonderland, the only sound you may hear is the powerful roar of ice breaking off and crashing into the frigid waters below. This is also a great location for viewing ice fall deposits, which form reconstituted glaciers, and kame (silt and sediment deposits).



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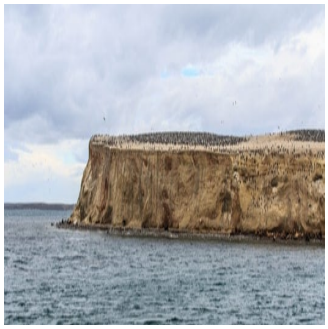
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DAY 14: Marta Island

In the middle of the Strait of Magellan, Marta Island (Isla Marta) is home to abundant birdlife and more than one thousand Patagonian (South American) sea lions. To protect the wildlife, shore landings are not possible here, but we do plan to circumnavigate the island, providing numerous opportunities to observe and photograph the colony from a short distance, in the comfort of a Zodiac. Called lobos marinos ("sea wolves") by local Chileans, these giant pinnipeds—males can weigh over 700 pounds/320 kg—form quite a noisy group as each sea lion vies for a choice spot of coastline. As you cruise by, sightings of imperial cormorants, skuas, southern gulls, Antarctic pigeons—and if we're lucky, dolphins—are also possible.



DAY 15: Disembark Punta Arenas and Fly Santiago

After an adventurous two weeks of exploration, you'll say goodbye to your Expedition Team and disembark in Punta Arenas, to be transferred to the airport for your charter flight to Santiago, where you are welcome to continue on your own travels or connect to your homeward flights.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship & hotel

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Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Cabin accommodation on board ship All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage Beer, standard wines & spirits, & cocktails during pre-dinner bar service, dinner & evenings Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock All scheduled landings and excursions Guiding and lectures by experienced expedition team Expedition parka (yours to keep) A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions One 10 to 15 minute helicopter flight-seeing excursion (weather permitting) Torres del Paine National Park entrance fee and ground transfers Estancia visit and ground transfers Lunches ashore during Puerto Natales/Torres del Paine excursion days Free WiFi **MANDATORY TRANSFER PACKAGE (INCLUDED)** One night pre transfer accommodation in a hotel in Buenos Aires with breakfast Group economy flights from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia Transfers from the hotel to the airport in Buenos Aires for your flight to Ushuaia (arrival transfer in Buenos Airs on day 1 is excluded) Group flights from Punta Arenas to Santiago on disembarkation Group Transfers to/from the ship **EXCLUSIONS** International flights Any other pre or post land arrangements not mentioned above Passport and visa expenses Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew Excess-baggage fees on international and domestic flights Laundry, bar and other personal charges unless specified Optional Adventure Activities
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, a supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.

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Notes	Prices are based on per person, and vary from single, triple, and twin cabins. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. Any promotional discounts mentioned, including percentage discounts are off of berth costs only, with no discount on taxes, mandatory flight or transfer packages. All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. Please note this itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions. On the 20 March 2028 departure has a slightly different itinerary in that Day 14 does not go to Marta Island, but instead stops for a visit to the San Isidro Lighthouse museum offering visitors a chance to explore the region's cultural and natural heritage. Includes charter flights from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia and Punta Arenas to Santiago In rare and unforeseen situations, an operator may apply a fuel surcharge after your booking has been confirmed and paid. This is outside our control and uncommon, but transparency with our travelers is important to us.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability. Any promotional discounts mentioned, including percentage discounts are off of berth costs only, with no discount on taxes, mandatory flight or transfer packages.

SUSTAINABILITY

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