SOUTH AMERICA - DEEP PATAGONIA: TIERRA DEL FUEGO & THE CHILEAN FJORDS | DISCOVERER



TRIP CODE

ACPLDPCF

DEPARTURE

14/03/2027

DURATION

15 Days

LOCATIONS

Patagonia, Argentina & Chile

INTRODUCTION

This 15â□□day expedition traces the full sweep of Chilean Patagonia, combining remote cruising with opportunities for an inâ□□depth look at Patagonia's scenic southern fjord systems, biodiverse wildlife viewing, guided hikes and Zodiac exploration. Travelling from Ushuaia toward Cape Horn and into the Chilean fjords, where glaciers, narrow channels and mountain landscapes set the stage for spotting albatross, other seabirds like the Chilean Skua, penguins, seals, dolphins, whales, and glacier formations from the ship or during Zodiac outings.

Along the route, visit communities such as Punta Arenas, Puerto Natales, Puerto Eden, and Chiloe Island, gaining insight into regional culture and Indigenous heritage. Time in Torres del Paine National Park offers access to iconic viewpoints and local wildlife, while onboard programming includes expert-lead talks on wildlife, geology and local traditions. Photography sessions and citizenâ□□science activities enhance the expedition experience before the voyage concludes in Valparaiso. The itinerary provides a broad overview of Patagonia's natural systems and cultural touchpoints within a single continuous route.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive and Explore Ushuaia



After a friendly welcome at the airport, we'll transfer you to one of our partnered premium hotel resorts nestled in breathtaking Patagonian nature, where you can take some time to unwind or go explore the southernmost city in the world, Ushuaia, Argentina. Our optional evening briefing is your opportunity to ask questions and meet some of your fellow explorers.

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DAY 2: Embarkation in Ushuaia



Spend your morning relaxing at the hotel, visiting a museum, or exploring the shops in Ushuaia, before our mid-afternoon escort to the ship. Our Expedition Team and ship's Crew will warmly welcome you on board and get you settled in, followed by a safety and orientation briefing and drill, after which we set sail into the Beagle Channel. We're on our way to explore Patagonia!

DAY 3: Cape Horn



Out of the screaming winds of the Drake Passage emerges a collection of rugged islands and skerries, spoken of in hushed voices by centuries of sailors – this is legendary Cape Horn, the southernmost tip of the Americas, and the symbolic end of human civilisation. Weather permitting, we will aim to explore this most remote of outposts, home to a small naval station, and a touching monument to the many sailors who failed to pass. During the afternoon and evening, we sail northwest towards the more sheltered waters of the fjords.

DAY 4: Beagle Channel and Strait of Magellan



The Beagle Channel is split between Chile and Argentina, with the western side leading into the straits of Magellan – the famous waterway coveted by explorers for centuries as a means of avoiding the violence of Cape Horn. Here we will take advantage of the conditions Mother Nature offers us, and aim to launch our Zodiacs to explore the flora, fauna and jawdropping scenery of the last gasp of the Andes. Crowded with rugged mountains clad with tortured trees, languid glaciers and icy fjords, these are easily some of the most beautiful waters on Earth!

DAY 5: Punta Arenas



Sitting on the Straits of Magellan, Punta Arenas is Chile's main gateway to Antarctica. Stroll the seafront to watch Magellanic penguins and cormorants frolic in the water while albatross wheel overhead, head into the surrounding countryside to discover Chilean ranching heritage, or visit the Mercado Municipal for fresh seafood, handmade souvenirs, and local delicacies in the upstairs eateries.

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DAY 6: Smyth Channel and Montañas Fjord

The waters around Patagonia are infamous for their violent storms, high winds and heavy seas – not so for us however, as we transit to the Pacific side of the Magellan Straits and into the sheltered waters of the Smyth Channel – one of the maze of waterways which comprise this vast watery region. Highlights during the day include the shipwreck of the Santa Leonor, the icecapped summit of Monte Burney, and the jawdropping glacier-lined peaks of Montañas Fjord. Be sure to venture outside during the evening as we pass through the Kirke Narrows, en route to Puerto Natales.



DAY 7: Puerto Natales

Situated on the eastern side of the Andes, surrounded by vast plains, Puerto Natales has a rugged wild-west feel which belies its warm charm. The town is the gateway to Torres del Paine National Park, one of the most famous sites in South America, and it is easy to see why! 'Paine' means 'Blue' in the Aónikenk language, a reference to the sapphire glacial waters which typify the park, although the granite towers the glacier-clad Cuernos del Paine are synonymous with this vast wilderness, as iconic a symbol of Patagonia as the condors soaring above. Spend the day exploring the park, including a delicious traditional Chilean lunch, and remember to watch out for rheas, guanacos, armadillos and even pumas, all of which can be found in this magnificent protected area.



DAY 8: Cruising the Chilean Fjords

Lined with wind-crippled trees and squabbling sealions beneath soaring albatross, the Chilean Fjords are a natural paradise, largely untouched by human activity, although generations of indigenous people have called this magnificent land home for millennia. Join your Expedition Team on deck to watch for wildlife, learn more about the region during expertly crafted lectures, or simply relax in our hot tubs and watch the breathtaking scenery of the region roll past as we navigate this magnificent wilderness.



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DAY 9: Puerto Edén

Puerto Edén is a small settlement on the shores of Wellington Island, accessible only by water, and which proudly claims to be the rainiest settlement on planet Earth. The village is one of the last strongholds of the Kawésqar people and language, who call the village Jetarktétqal. With no roads, the once–nomadic locals still largely live off the bounty of the sea, and the town's infrastructure is limited to an incredible network of boardwalks and paths linking the buildings. Despite the wet weather, the town is a natural paradise, with verdant hills dripping with greenery, and tiny hummingbirds flitting between the fuchsias. Enjoy exploring the town with local guides, and remember to watch out for woven-grass baskets and sealskin boats for sale – traditional artworks of the Kawésqar.



DAY 10: Caleta Tortel

Nestled deep within the channels, the village of Caleta Tortel occupies a truly enviable position, surrounded by sapphire fjords, steep mountains and plummeting waterfalls at the mouth of the vast Baker River. Like Puerto Edén, Tortel is built on a network of stairways and boardwalks constructed from cypress wood – the export of which is the town's major industry. Explore through this delightful town, full of quaint houses and wooden pavillions, or take a hike into the surrounding mountains with your Expedition Team to enjoy some of the best views in Chile, or if wildlife watching is more your scene, grab your binoculars and explore the shoreline and hunt for the many endemic bird species which can be found in this heavenly corner of Patagonia.



DAY 11: At sea, en route to Castro

Days at sea are never dull – sailing up the Pacific Coast of Chile, we follow the chilly Humboldt Current which originates in Antarctica, and brings exceptional productivity to this section of coast. As such, albatross, whales and other marine life are common in the area – so while you relax and indulge during a relaxing day at sea, ensure you have your binoculars by your side!



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DAY 12: Castro, Chiloe Island

Chiloe Island is the third largest in South America, and has been relatively isolated from the mainland for much of its history. Characterised by green rolling meadows (more similar to Ireland or Wales than much of Patagonia), Chiloe is a unique island steeped in a mixture of Indigenous and European myths, legends and tradition. Simply strolling through a market in Castro (the Island's capital), visitors will find bundles of seaweed, dried sea-squirts and enormous green-lipped mussels – delicacies unique to this region. Chiloe's cultural heritage oozes from every corner, from the vibrant markets to the shingled houses and the islands' vast collection of wooden churches, which are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



DAY 13: Niebla

A world away from the wilderness of the fjords, Niebla is a picturesque former fortress at the mouth of the Valdivia River, and gateway to the city of the same name. Largely settled by German colonists, the city has a unique style, blending Spanish and German influences. Although decimated by the powerful earthquakes in recorded history in 1960, the city today is a vibrant hub, holding several respected universities, large markets, and tempting eateries. Take a stroll along the Feria Fluvial (River Market) and feast your senses on local produce (and the abundant wildlife which scavenges for scraps), enjoy a coffee and a slice of kuchen at a laid-back cafe, and soak up the atmosphere as you watch black-necked swans, sealions and muscular rowers compete for space along the river.



DAY 14: At sea, en route to Valparaíso

Our final full day onboard is the ideal time to reconnect with your fellow explorers and reflect on your magnificent expedition. Now the cold of Patagonia is left behind, relax on the outer decks and watch as Antarctic terns give way to Inca terns, and other ships become more and more common. During the evening, toast the end of your voyage with an expertly crafted cocktail at the Captain's Farewell Party and relive your adventure during the final Slideshow before a final celebratory dinner with your fellow explorers.



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DAY 15: Disembarkation in Valparaiso

On the final morning of our expedition, the vast bustling city of Valparaíso comes into view. 'Vibrant' barely captures this incredible city, Chile's main port, where thousands of colourful houses are draped across the rolling hills, linked by the city's famous funicular elevators. After a fond farewell to Expedition Team and Crew of the Discoverer, alight in this dynamic city – ready to explore, or just a stone's throw away from the Chilean capital of Santiago. On the morning of disembarkation, we provide transfers for you and your luggage from the ship to one of the following: Valparaiso Downtown Santiago International Airport Valparaíso Port is located approximately 110 km (68 miles) from Santiago International Airport (SCL). The drive typically takes around 1.5 hours, depending on traffic conditions. If you plan to fly out of Santiago International Airport on the same day, we recommend booking a flight departing after 2:00 pm (14:00) to allow sufficient time for disembarkation and transfer.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship & Hotel

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Inclusions

INCLUSIONS

1 night pre night cruise accommodation in Ushuaia including breakfast
Transfer from Ushuaia airport to hotel (**on arrival in Ushuaia if arriving on Day 1 of itinerary, and providing we have your confirmed air itinerary at least 15 days prior to departure*)
Group transfer from Ushuaia hotel accommodation to the ship for embarkation
Group transfer after disembarkation from the port to either downtown Valparaiso or to Santiago International Airport*
Accommodation onboard the Discoverer in booked cabin category
All meals onboard the Discoverer including snacks
Beer & soft drinks with lunch; beer, wine & soft drinks with dinner as well as 24/7 tea, coffee & hot cocoa
1GB WiFi card for use on your personal devices (additional can be purchased for a fee)
Onboard lecture program from Expeditions Team and Naturalist Guides.
All scheduled shore excursions and Zodiac cruising (except paid adventure options with cost)
Puffer jacket and parka, which can be layered together, are yours to keep
Complimentary use of rubber Muck boots, on loan for the duration of your expedition (exclusions apply - see below)
Citizen Science program
Photography Coach available throughout the voyage
Use of onboard gym, sauna, pool and jacuzzi
Access to onboard medical clinics
Access to onboard fitness centres
All port taxes and landing fees
Digital Voyage Log

INCLUDED ON ALL SUITES
Wine and fruit on arrival
In-room mini-bar refilled once daily with non-alcoholic beverages
Complimentary laundry service
In-room espresso machine

EXCLUSIONS

International or internal flights other than specified
Airport transfers, taxes and excess baggage charges unless specified
Meals & beverages other than those specified in the pre-departure information
Pre or post cruise travel expenses other than specified
Visa (if applicable) and passport fees
Travel insurance (compulsory)
Fuel surcharge may be applied to all bookings
Paid adventure options and all personal expenses
Tobacco, or selected premium beverages
Miscellaneous extras
Onboard communication charges, such as outgoing phone calls or WiFi, not listed under inclusions
Medical care or emergency evacuation
Laundry and communication charges on board
Gratuities for Expedition team and crew
Smaller puffer jackets, outer parka jackets and muck boots **may not be available** for minors, depending on size requirements.
Additionally, a lifejacket that meets our safety standards is mandatory for all minors 15 years and under and **must be provided by the parent/guardian**. Please contact your booking agent for details.

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Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Contact Us for details. Single occupancy cabins are available with a surcharge or for those willing to share you can be matched with someone of the same gender in selected cabins and pay the twin share price. Subject to availability.
Notes	Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated for single cabins) Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations. Transfers are included upon disembarkation in Valparaiso, Chile to either downtown Valparaiso or to Santiago International Airport.* *(* Valparaiso Port is located approximately 110 km (68 miles) from Santiago International Airport (SCL). The drive typically takes around 1.5 hours, depending on traffic conditions. If you plan to fly out of Santiago International Airport on the same day, we recommend booking a flight **departing after 2:00 pm (14:00)** to allow sufficient time for disembarkation and transfer.)* 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 & Availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY

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