

A World Away Travels

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Majesty of Chile **November 27-December 13,2000**

From the voyage of Darwin to this special tour, the mystery and allure of Patagonia has drawn explorers, hikers and nature lovers for centuries. We begin our adventure among the emerald islands of the Chiloe Archipelago; an area steeped in culture and maritime history, rolling pastures, old growth forests and penguin colonies. To get a better feel for the cultural treasures of the area we will board Cahuella, a 50-foot handcrafted motor cruiser to navigate among the islands, stopping at centuries old churches and antique farmhouses. On Cahuella we will then cross over to Pumalin Park on continental Patagonia, an area of steep walled fjords, ancient forests, glacier covered volcanoes and natural hot springs that are only accessible by sea. Here we can take moderate hikes into remote valleys where no roads exist. Our tour continues with a flight to southern Patagonia and several days amidst the diverse beauty of Torres del Paine National Park. This park is famous for its emerald lakes, golden grasslands, glacier-covered peaks and the spectacular granite spires that give the park its name. *A combination of 6 days cruising through the fjords of Patagonia, sea kayaking, and 5 day hikes. This trip is limited to 8*

November 27-28 Travel to Santiago

Departing from the United States late in the evening you will arrive in Santiago early the next morning. Upon your arrival we will transfer to the Hotel Vegas, a colonial style hotel well located near downtown. The Hotel Vegas is in a district that is a protected national monument and is quiet due to its location on a plaza. The remaining portion of the morning is free to relax before joining the group for lunch. In the afternoon we will tour the Concha y Toro Vineyard and continue to the Cajon del Maipo. The Maipo is a fantastic canyon with a rushing river running below Towering Andean Peaks. In the evening we will dine at the vibrant bohemian barrio of Bellavista located in one of the oldest sectors of Santiago. The area is full of superb restaurants, art galleries, bars, clubs, and artisan stalls selling crafts. Accommodations: Vegas Hotel *Day 2:Lunch ,Dinner No meals included en route to Chile*

November 29 Santiago-Ancud

Morning transfer to airport for flight to Puerto Montt. Nearly two hours long this flight has dramatic views of the Chilean countryside. Arriving in Puerto Montt we will drive to the lake side town of Puerto Varas. Settled by Germans the town sits on the shores of Chile's largest lake, Llaquehue and beneath the majestic snowy cone of Osorno Volcano. We will visit the Petrohue Falls and the glowing waters of Lago Todos los Santos, considered Chile's most beautiful lake. Lago Todos los Santos is nested deep within the oldest National Park in the country and is situated beneath some of the most prominent volcanic peaks of the Southern Lake District. After a picnic lunch we will take a late afternoon drive to the ferry crossing to the island of Chiloe and onto Ancud. This evening we will spend the night in the lovely wooden beamed Hosteria Ancud overlooking the Bay of Ancud. *B,L*

November 30 Ancud-Cacahue Canal

After breakfast drive through the Chiloe countryside to the Pacific Ocean. Just a short walk along a picturesque beach to the small fishing community of Puniuil where we will board a small boat to visit the

island penguin colony off shore. There we will view Humbolt and Magallanic penguins. This is the only place in the world where these two species co-exist. Upon our return to Ancud we will go to the home of Maria Carolina Oyarzun for a homemade island meal of the freshest products from the fertile land and sea. With time, we'll pay a visit to the local museum that commemorates the fact that Chiloe Island and the town of Ancud were the last stronghold of the Spanish in all of Latin America. Afternoon drive down the eastern coastal road to the antique decorated Farm House of Don Juan Dougnac in Quemchi. He and his wife have impressive gardens, orchards, make fresh butter, jams, yogurt, and their house enjoys sweeping views of the Caucahue Canal. The Farm House's quaint rooms each have their own small wood stoves. *This evening our bathroom facilities are shared. B,L,D*

December 1-6 Aboard Cahuella

December 1 *Cacahue Canal-Bay of Mechuque*

After a farm fresh breakfast, we will walk down to the beach below to meet *Cahuella* and her crew and begin navigating for a few hours through the clear waters between the islands of the Archipelago of Chiloe. We will drop anchor in the afternoon in the protected Bay of Mechuque, a fascinating island town where people still live in "palafitos" *traditional houses built on stilts with boats parked below*. Enjoy an "asado", a typical Chilean barbecue, with a local family on a nearby island. Night spent on *Cahuella*. While on *Cahuella* all meals unless otherwise specified are prepared by the talented onboard chef- a master of mixing international styles with local products and traditions. *B,L,D*

December 2 *Bay of Mechuque- Bay of Apiao*

There will be early morning photography and wild life viewing opportunities among the canals of Mechuque before navigating to the island of Quinchao and visiting its main city of Achao. Early in the morning people are welcome to sea kayak before breakfast. The bustling port town has an incredible church built of wood 300 years ago that was recently declared an UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the late afternoon we'll navigate a few hours away and drop anchor in the picturesque, and very protected, Bay of Apiao. The narrow bays of the archipelago allow us to ensure calm waters for pleasant sleeping. *B,L,D*

December 3 *Bay of Apiao-Pumalin National Park*

Cahuella will leave very early in the morning to take advantage of the best time of day to cross the open waters of Gulf of Ancud to enter the Renihue Fjord. This is the entrance of Pumalin Park. In the afternoon we will take a semi-strenuous hike to the Cascada. This incredible low impact rainforest trail truly immerses one in the majesty of the area. For those who continue the two hour walk they will reach the spectacular 200 foot waterfall. Even if you want to walk for only ½ hour, the trail affords a unique opportunity to easily penetrate the dense rainforest and experience its beauty from within. Tonight is spent on land in the Park Chalets designed by well known Chilean architect and American conservationist Douglas Tompkins. Pumalin Park is the brainchild of Tompkins, who created this 650,000 acre park to protect the last stands of the majestic Alerce Tree, the second oldest tree in the world (3600 years old), and to create sustainable development strategies for the region of Patagonia. Dinner this evening is on your own in the Park Café *B,L*

December 4 *Pumalin National Park-Termas de Porcelana*

After breakfast in the park café, we will leave in a lancha (small boat) to visit a nearby sea lion colony and then we will be dropped off in Fiordo Largo. After a short snack we'll head out on an easy 3 hour walk to Leptepu, on the Comao Fjord on an abandoned section of the Carretera Austral (the "Southern Highway"). This moderate walk is a wonderful way to view the area's birdlife. *Cahuella* will meet you at the end of our walk with a wonderful lunch of fresh fish, seafood, and salads. The previous evening *Cahuella* made the long journey around a large peninsula where waters are often rough. Afternoon and evening at the Termas de Porcelana, outrageous natural hot spring pools nestled amidst the ferns and mossy giants of the temperate rainforest. These springs are what dreams are made of! Night on board *Cahuella*, with gourmet food and fresh pisco sours provided by her chef. *B,L,D*

December 5 *Termas de Porcelana -Llancahue Island*

An early morning hot spring for those who wish and we'll have breakfast while navigating through the Comao Fjord to the north. Next stop will be under the steep walls of the Quintapeu Fjord. Zodiac tours and wildlife viewing will also be offered to study the flora and fauna of the narrow waterways. For people feeling more active you may sea kayak around the fjords. The evening will be spent anchored in the Bay of Llancahue Island. *B,L,D*

December 6 *Llancahue Island - Puerto Varas*

In the morning cruise up the Comao Fjord to the town of Hornopiren, nestled beneath a spectacular forested volcano rising from the ocean. A final sumptuous meal with the staff of Cahuella and you'll be off in private transport on a scenic drive and ferry on the Carretera Austral to Puerto Montt. Tonight we will stay in Puerto Varas on the shore of Lake Llanquehue under the snowy profile of the Osorno Volcano. Our accommodations will be in scenic lake-side cabins. The evening is free to explore Puerto Varas on your own. *B,L*

December 7 *Puerto Varas-Punta Natales*

Private transfer to airport in the morning for flight to Punta Arenas, the large city located on the windy waters of the Strait of Magellan. During this portion of the trip a private driver will accompany the group. Driving north through the open pampa grasslands we reach Puerto Natales, a Patagonian city beautifully located on the cold waters of the Last Hope Sound. Accommodations in Hotel Eberhard, overlooking the sound. Tonight free to further explore town. *B,L*

December 8 *Punta Natales-Torres del Paine National Park*

After breakfast, drive to Torres del Paine National Park. Our three-hour drive travels through beautiful Patagonian landscapes. Frequent stops are likely to photograph the landscape and the abundant wildlife that will certainly include guanacos, a relative of the llama, that graze along side the road. We will enter the National Park at Laguna Azul ("Blue Lake") for a picnic lunch complete with memorable views of the Towers of Paine across the blue waters of the lake. From the lake we will take a short hike along the shores gazing at the incredible towers. Drive to Hosteria Las Torres, a reconstructed luxury ranch within the park. Accommodations: Hosteria Las Torres *B,L,D*

December 9 *Torres del Paine National Park*

After an early breakfast, you and your guide will head out on a day hike to the Towers Lookout (Mirador de Las Torres). This fantastic hike passes through an incredible variety of ecosystems and landscapes: pampa grasslands, dry arid valley, old growth forest and glacial moraine. Our five-hour ascent is broken up with stops for tea, coffee, and chocolate at Refugio Chileno. At the look out we will enjoy a picnic among the boulders looking across a small glacial lake toward the park's center piece, the Towers of Paine: 1800ft glacial spires. Returning back, the evening is free to enjoy the ranch and the area's stunning views. Accommodations: Hosteria Las Torres. *B,L,D*

December 10 *Torres del Paine National Park*

We'll leave the eastern section of the park and drive west, stopping for a short walk at Salto Grande waterfall. Continuing to the Park Administration Center where informative geological and biological displays teach about the area. We'll then continue west to Lake Grey to walk amongst the icebergs that wash up on its southern shore in the "Iceberg Cemetery". The massive glacial wall of the Grey Glacier will be visible on the northern shore of the lake. Following our excursion we travel to Hosteria Pehoe, located on a small island only accessible by footbridge, for the evening. The hotel has fantastic views across Lake Pehoe to Los Cuernos (the Horns) and glacier covered Paine Grande, the tallest mountain in the park at 10,000 ft. Accommodations: Hosteria Pehoe *B,L,D*

December 11 *Torres del Paine National Park- Punta Arenas*

Return drive to Punta Arenas, via the Seno Ottway Penguin Colony, a major conservation success. The penguin population has risen from 500 to 8000 in the 9 years of protection now that the animals are not hunted for food or to bait crab pots. Spend the night in Punta Arenas in a colonial style hotel on the central Plaza de Armas. *B,L*

December 12 *Punta Arenas-Santiago*

Morning free to visit the Strait of Magellen or one of the several museums dedicated to the fascinating colonial history of the city. In the late morning catch a connecting flight to Santiago. Evening flight home. Accommodations: Hotel Plaza B

December 13 *Arrive Home*

Trip Costs: \$3200 (7-8 participants) \$3500 (5-6 participants)

Internal Flights: \$400

Single Supplement: \$300

Trip Cost includes all double accommodations (10 nights hotels, local inns, and cabins / 4 nights aboard *Cahuella*), food noted in itinerary (37 meals), private transport throughout the trip, park entrance fees, all tours, personal liability insurance onboard *Cahuella*, and guides. This trip will be lead by Britt Lewis a native of New York State. Britt has spent the last decade living in Latin America. Fluent in Spanish, Chile is now his home. Britt personally created this trip to allow people to truly discover the natural beauty, history, wildlife and culture of Chile.

This tour offers discerning travelers the opportunity for small group, comfortable travel accompanied by a superb bilingual guide. In addition to visiting some well known parts of Chile, you will have the unique opportunity to experience the cultural treasures of the Chiloe Islands and the natural beauty of the fjords of Northern Patagonia by sea- something that is not available elsewhere. Limited to seven people this is a truly unique way to visit Chile that includes the common highlights of the Lake District, Santiago, Torres del Paine, the gems of Chiloe and the fjords of Patagonia that are unavailable through any other company. Such a guided trip with so few people is a truly special experience.

The cost of the trip does not include international airfare, international entrance and departure fees at airport, or personal expenses.