

# A World Away Travels

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## San Rafael Glacier National Park

December 17-29, 2000

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This trip has as its destination the famous National Park whose centerpiece is the magnificent blue wall of the San Rafael Glacier calving into the water of the lagoon. However this trip follows the old saying "half the fun of a journey is getting there." Your spectacular journey will start near the port city of Puerto Montt and head through breathtaking fjords, islands and innumerable canals. The wilds of Patagonia have never been so accessible or as comfortable to explore as aboard your boat, the *Cahuella*.

### December 17-18 Santiago-Ancud

Departing from the United States late in the evening you will arrive in Santiago early the next morning. Upon your arrival you will catch a 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 German immigrants the town sits on the shores of Chile's largest lake, Llanquihue 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 nestled 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. Tonight we will stay in Puerto Varas on the shore of Lake Llanquihue. Our accommodations will be in scenic lakeside cabins. The evening is free to explore Puerto Varas on your own. Accommodations: Puerto Varas Cabins *Dinner*

### December 19 Chiloe

You will leave Puerto Montt in the morning for the beautiful island of Chiloe. We will have lunch in the bustling city of Ancud, a place steeped in history as the site of the last stand of the Spanish in all of Latin America. Continuing south along the southern most leg of the Pan-American Highway, we'll pass through the capital of Castro in order to visit its renowned wooden Cathedral and superb crafts market. The road ends in Quellon, the southernmost city on Chiloe and the site of the Patagonian fishing fleet. Here, we will board *Cahuella* and enjoy two firsts: our first Patagonian sunset and the first gourmet delicacies prepared by our chef. *Lunch, Dinner*

### December 20 Golfo de Corcovado- Melinka

In the attempt to make the most of the tides, we'll cross the Gulf of Corcovado early in the morning, aiming to arrive in the Guaiteca Islands by mid-day. This is where our adventure truly begins- countless forested islands and canals. The unbelievable beauty of navigating through the region, occasionally we will be accompanied by dolphins and sea lions as we cruise through the fjords. *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### December 21-22 Canal Moreleda to Puyuhuapi Hot Springs

The next two days we will weave our way through the Guaiteca Islands and down the Moreleda Canal, an area of uninhabited fjords to the east and endless islands to the west. Sightings of dolphins and sea lions are likely, as well as penguins, cormorants and many other birds. In the second afternoon we will head eastward, through the Jacal Canal to spend the evening moored within the Quelat National Park at the Puyuhuapi Hot Springs Resort where you will be able to go ashore and enjoy the luxurious hot springs along the shore of the fjord. *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **December 23 *Southward bound: Elephant Canal***

The endless cypress covered islands and snowcapped peaks form the backdrop as we make our way south through a land that time has forgotten. Forest and water as far as the eye can see... Breathtaking peace... and the chance to come across a rare whale as we did in our '99 trip. Going at our usual relaxing pace, we stopped in the protected bay and spent several hours with the whale! *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **December 24 *Laguna San Rafael***

At the end of the Elephant Gulf, we will come across our first icebergs floating in the wide bay- the entrance to the Laguna San Rafael. Timing it right we have time to experience the glacial beauty by zodiac, we will drop anchor (weather permitting) in the quiet of the lagoon to watch the sun set over the blue walls of ice. A fine Scotch whisky or glass of wine with 12,000-year-old ice will keep you warm until your gourmet meal and the peace and serenity of the enclosed lagoon ensure a heavenly night's sleep. *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **December 25 *Laguna San Rafael***

We will spend much of the day in the Laguna San Rafael, with zodiac trips among the icebergs at the edge of the massive glacier. Lunch on a lovely beach with the massive blue wall of the glacier nearby. All morning will be available for exploration and adventure, with the comfort of the *Cahuella* always waiting for you. In the afternoon we will begin our journey northwards. *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **December 26 *Canal Errazuriz***

Returning northward through a parallel canal, one that is full of small islands, cormorant colonies and no people, we will have our last full day of immersion in the immense nature of Patagonia. A special farewell meal in a protected bay where our only neighbors will be sea lions and dolphins. *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **December 27 *Puerto Chacabuco***

After our last relaxing cruise amidst the beauty of the fjords and a last special lunch prepared by our chef, we will arrive at the port of Puerto Chacabuco. Here you will be met by a van to take you to the airport for your connecting flight to Puerto Montt. The evening is free to relax in town. Accommodations: Puerto Varas Cabins *Breakfast, Lunch*

### **December 28 –29 *Puerto Montt-Santiago-United States***

You will catch a flight from Puerto to Santiago and the United States. Or continue trip in South America.

Trip Costs: \$3000 (7-8 participants) \$3200 (5-6 participants)

Internal Flights: \$400

Single Supplement: \$300

Trip Cost includes all double accommodations (2 nights hotels, local inns, and cabins / 8 nights aboard *Cahuella*), food noted in itinerary (24 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 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.

Days:13