

Chile Express

Experience the Chilean scenery around Santiago, then fly south to Patagonian to soak in its stunning landscapes, flora and fauna and cruise from Punta Arenas amongst the fjords and islands of the southern tip of the country.



12 days/11 nights

ITINERARY

Day 1: Santiago

Reception at Santiago's airport and transfer to the Hotel. Afternoon tour around Santiago, visiting the city's most outstanding attractions, including a walking tour downtown visiting the "Plaza de Armas", the Cathedral, Ahumada Boulevard and the Government Palace "La Moneda" (outside). Then, by vehicle, visit the main avenues of old Santiago, crossing the bohemian neighbourhood of Bellavista and drive up San Cristobal Hill, for a magnificent panoramic view of the city and the Andes Mountain Range. After this, the tour will take you to the modern part of Santiago, including its chic neighborhoods, shopping and financial centers.

Return to the hotel. Overnight at the selected Hotel.

Day 2: Santiago - Vina del Mat - Valparaiso - Santiago

Breakfast in the Hotel. In the morning depart from the hotel and travel through the Casablanca and Curacavi valleys. On arrival at the Pacific coast, visit the beaches of Las Salinas, and Reñaca and continue to Viña del Mar, known as the garden city for its beautiful parks and floral displays. Visit the Municipal gambling Casino building and the avenues of this attractive town. In the afternoon, continue to Valparaíso, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where stairways and old funicular lifts lead up to the 44 hills on which the city is built. Dating back to the XVI century, the architecture of this quirky town is attractive and eclectic.

Afternoon return to Santiago. Overnight at the selected Hotel.
(B)

Day 3: Santiago - Calama - San Pedro de Atacama

Breakfast in the hotel and transfer to the airport in time to board flight to Calama. Reception at Calama airport and transfer to the village of San Pedro de Atacama through the Domekoyo mountain range and the Salt Mountain range. In the afternoon, visit the Salt Mountain, Marte Valley (also called Death Valley) and Moon Valley to admire the spectacular sunset reflected on this wonderful landscape - nature's own light show.

Return to the hotel. Overnight at the selected Hotel.
(B)

Day 4: San Pedro de Atacama

Breakfast in the hotel. We will start by visiting the Atacama Salt Flat which is Chiles biggest Salt Flat and among one of the largest in the world. Here we will find laguna Chaxa where three different species of flamingoes live and breed.

We will also have the chance of visiting the picturesque village of Toconao where the most important attraction is the Bell Tower constructed in the classical atacamenian way. After this we will visit the village of Socaire and the Altiplanic



lagoons of Meñique and Miscanti located at 4.500 meters above sea level (14.850 feet above sea level). This area is a part of the “Reserva Nacional Los Flamencos” (Flamingos National Reserve). These lagoons are surrounded by impressive volcanoes that were formed when the Andes Mountain Range rose from the sea through millions of years of evolution.

Dinner included in a local restaurant. Overnight at the selected Hotel.
(B, L)

Day 5: San Pedro de Atacama – Tatío Geysers – San Pedro de Atacama – Calama – Santiago

Early departure from the hotel (4.00 AM) to the Geysers del Tatío. Breakfast box in the Geysers before a gentle guided walk around the geothermal field with observation of the natural phenomenon of the steam columns which are viewed at their best as the sun rises over the Andes Mountains. Return to San Pedro with spectacular views of the Torcopuri y Sairecabur volcanoes.

On returning to San Pedro, the rest of the day is at leisure. We suggest visiting the market in San Pedro.

In the afternoon transfer to Calama Airport to board flight to Santiago. At Santiago Lodging in the Hotel at Airport Area. Overnight on selected Hotel.
(B)

Day 6: Santiago – Punta Arenas – Puerto Natales

Breakfast in the hotel. Transfer to the airport of Santiago to board the flight to Punta Arenas.

In Punta Arenas, reception at the airport and transfer to the bus station for a regular bus to Puerto Natales. Reception at Puerto Natales bus station and transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the selected Hotel.
(B)

Day 7: Puerto Natales – Torres del Paine National Park – Puerto Natales

Breakfast in the hotel. Full day excursion with lunch included, visiting Torres del Paine National Park. Departure from Puerto Natales. The journey continues through steppes and Patagonia scrub, full of abundant wild life and herds of sheep, up to Torres del Paine National Park declared world heritage by UNESCO. In the park, a large variety of native fauna especially large herds of guanacos can be observed. Visit the Salto Grande of the Pehoe River, with the impressive mountain massif of Torres del Paine in the background. Then visit to Lake Pehoe, Lake Grey, from where you will see the Grey Glacier in the distance.

Return to Puerto Natales in the evening. Overnight on selected Hotel.
(B, L)

Day 8: Puerto Natales – Punta Arenas – Australis

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the bus terminal and regular bus to Punta Arenas (bus terminal). Transfer to the office for the check-in. Check in at 990 Magallanes Street between 13:00 and 17:00. Board the M/V Via Australis cruise ship at 18:00.

After a welcoming cocktail reception hosted by the Captain and his crew, the M/V Via Australis will depart for one of the remotest parts of the planet. Our trip will take us through the Strait of Magellan and the Fuegian-Patagonian channels to explore one of the most breathtaking wilderness regions in the world: Southern Patagonia, which includes the Tierra del Fuego archipelago.
(B, D)

Day 9: Australis (Brookes Glacier – Ainsworth Bay)

At dawn, we will be sailing to Brookes Fjord. The area is a natural amphitheatre shaped by glaciers in constant movement. We will take a short walk towards one of the glaciers, enjoying the breathtaking surroundings and the view of the Darwin Mountain Range. Later, we will navigate our way through Almirantazgo Sound, arriving at Ainsworth Bay which is sited within Alberto De Agostini National Park. It's the perfect spot from which to see the Marinelli Glacier descending from Darwin Mountain Range in the distance; and to appreciate how the land returns to life after glacial retreat.

We will also take a walk to a beaver dam in the stunning sub-polar Magellan Forest. Whether on the beach or the island, there's a good chance of sighting Southern Elephant Seals. But do bear in mind the fact that sightings cannot be guaranteed due to the colony's unpredictable movements.
(B, L, D)

Day 10: Australis (Almirantazgo Bay – Parry Glacier)

Early in the morning we will reach Almirantazgo Bay. We will take a walk from the mouth of a river going North, entering the sub-Antarctic forest and finally reaching a glacial waterfall. On our way back, we will see several beaver dams.



Finally, we will take a ride on the Zodiac boats in order to observe elephant seals, cormorants and other birds while we go back to our cruise ship. In the afternoon we will navigate Parry Fjord. From this area it will be possible to appreciate various glaciers that come down to the sea from the upper icefield. On-board Zodiac boats, we will motor to the far end of the fjord to see an amphitheatre of glaciers in an area where sometimes it is possible to see leopard seals.
(B, L, D)

Day 11: Austalis (Magdalena Island)

Early in the morning, weather permitting, we will go ashore on Magdalena Island*, located in the middle of the Strait of Magellan. The island used to be an essential source of supplies for navigators and explorers and is inhabited by an immense colony of Magellan Penguins that we will be able to see during our walk to the lighthouse. In September and April, this excursion is replaced by a ride aboard Zodiacs to Marta Island to observe South American Sea Lions.

Finally, disembarkation at Punta Arenas is scheduled for 11:30.

Transfer to Punta Arenas airport and flight back to Santiago. Reception at the airport and transfer to the hotel.
Overnight at the selected Hotel.
(B)

**Camera extension poles are prohibited on Magdalena Island.*

Day 12: Santiago

Breakfast in the hotel. At the appropriate time, transfer to the airport.
(B)

Details

Group Size: Min. 2

2018-2020 Departures:

Select dates December 2018-April 2019 and September 2019-April 2020

2018 Pricing:

to December 2018

US\$5,030 - 1 person

US\$2,739 - 2 people

US\$2,835 - 3 people

US\$2,025 - 4 people

US\$2,170 - 5 people

2019-2020 Pricing:

January to April 2019

US\$5,209 - 1 person

US\$2,835 - 2 people

US\$2,930 - 3 people

US\$2,085 - 4 people

US\$2,235 - 5 people

September 2019

US\$4,820 - 1 person

US\$2,635 - 2 people

US\$2,698 - 3 people

US\$1,920 - 4 people

US\$2,045 - 5 people

October to December 2019

US\$5,030 - 1 person

US\$2,739 - 2 people



US\$2,835 – 3 people

US\$2,025 – 4 people

US\$2,170 – 5 people

January to April 2020

US\$5,209 – 1 person

US\$2,835 – 2 people

US\$2,930 – 3 people

US\$2,085 – 4 people

US\$2,235 – 5 people

Prices are shown in as starting from prices in US\$, per person, based on a private group of one, two, three, four or five people travelling together. Accommodation is based on one person in a single room; two people sharing a twin room; three people in one twin room/one single room; four people in two twin rooms; five people in two twin rooms/one single room.

Trip Code:

007155 - W20

INCLUDED

- Transfers and excursions with English/Spanish speaking guide
- Tours and sightseeing as per itinerary
- Accommodations as outlined in itinerary
- Local bus transfers between Punta Arenas and Puerto Natales (without guide)
- Entrance fee to Museum and National Park as outlined
- 3-night Australis sailing in lead-in category B cabin
- Welcome reception on-board the ship
- Meals as per itinerary

NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare to/from Santiago
- Round trip flights between Santiago and Calama
- Round trip flight from Santiago to Punta Arenas
- Meals and beverages not listed in itinerary
- Gratuities to local guides and ship staff
- Travel Insurance
- Items of a personal nature

TOUR NOTES

Explore the city of Santiago and the many beautiful areas in the surrounding area. Then journey south Santiago to Punta Arenas and continue on by sea as you cruise fjords, hike through sub-polar forests and view the impressive glaciers of this magical land.

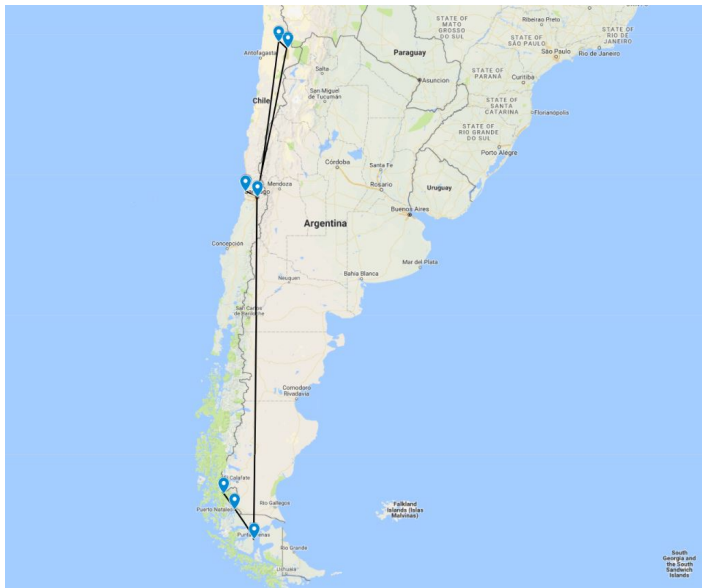
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ROUTE MAP



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