



Patagonian Rail & Cruise

October 15 - November 5, 2021

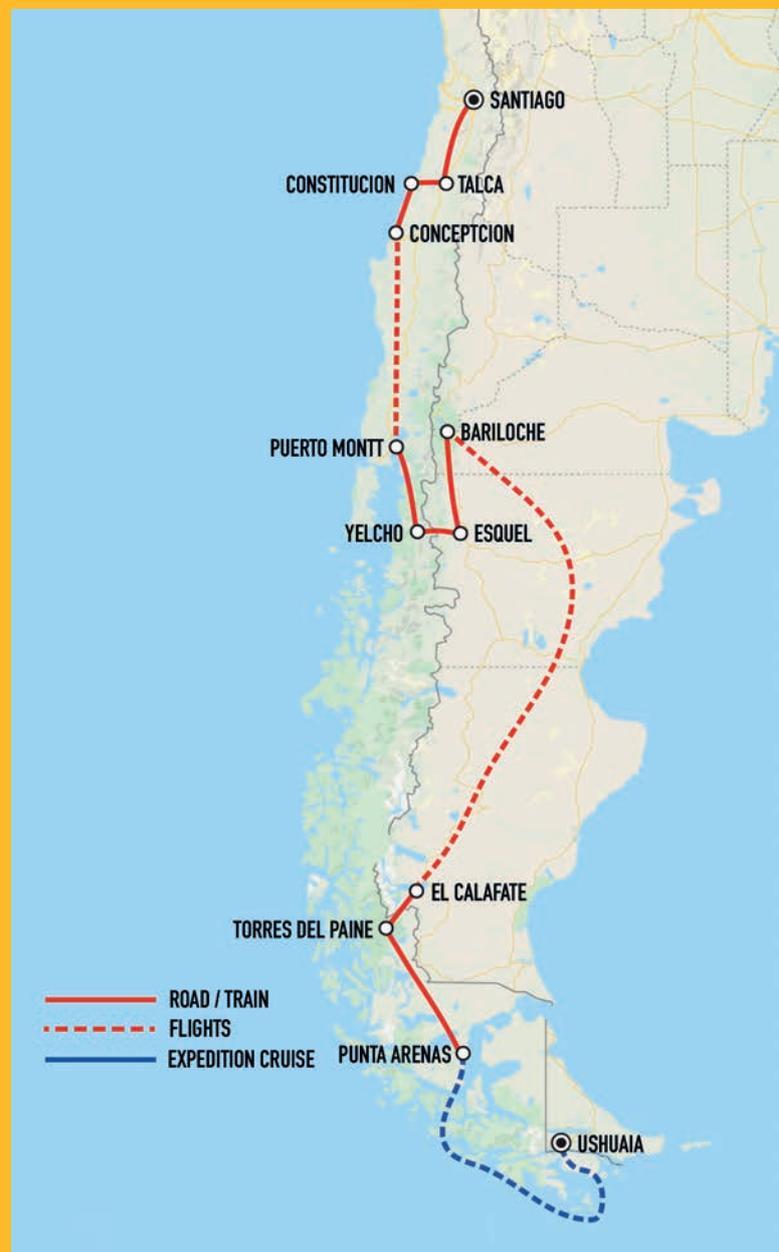


22
days



Tour Overview.

Patagonia is undeniably one of the most charming places in the world, with gorgeous vistas at every turn, paths unspoiled by the masses, soaring snow-capped peaks, glistening glaciers and countless lakes of varying colors. The Chilean Patagonia consist of an impassable fjord landscape, so the very south of the country can be reached only by boat or by crossing Argentine territory. The Argentinean Patagonia are vast plains of unspoiled pampa beneath the snow-capped Andean mountain range towering in the distant west.



Patagonia's unusual geography makes our Tour an extraordinary adventure trip. You will travel on trains, ferries and private vehicles to experience one of the most scenic and breathtaking routes in the world. We'll conclude our tour with a spectacular five-day cruise around South America's southern tip, the Cape Horn.

Our Patagonian journey begins in Santiago de Chile, where we'll explore Chile's capital city and the surrounding region. At Santiago's Alameda Railway Station, we will embark on our trip by train to Talca, where we'll change trains and take the historical train from Talca to Constitucion.

The next leg of our journey carries us on "Carretera Austral" from Puerto Montt to Chaiten. We must cross various fjords on a ferry before reaching Chaiten. We will then continue on the scenic road across the Andes via Futaleufu to Esquel in Argentina. Esquel is the home of the famous train "Old Patagonian Express," also known as "La Trochita." Our journey continues to Bariloche, from which we will fly to Calafate and visit the famous Glacier "Perito Moreno." We'll return to Chile once more at Paso Rio Don Guillermo to see the spectacular National Park Torres del Paine.

We will spend the last leg of our tour on a small expedition cruise vessel traveling for five days in one of the most remote parts of South America, from Punta Arenas around Cape Horn to Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world. Our last train trip is on the Southern Fuegian Railway, perhaps better known as "El Tren del Fin del Mundo," the southernmost railway in the world.



Important Travel Information

To participate in this tour, you need to be physically fit. The highlights at some destinations can only be reached on foot via a 1 - 3 hour medium-difficult mountain hike. However, none of the hikes are mandatory. The walks are of medium difficulty and can be completed with standard hiking gear.

Patagonia is a vast, remote region of South America. The tour brings you to areas off the beaten track, which means longer, mostly scenic journeys in our private vehicle. In sparsely populated areas, roads are often unpaved; therefore, be prepared to travel longer distances on bumpy roads.

Because of the fjords in Southern Chile, we use car ferries to cross waterways from time to time. The weather conditions can change very quickly in this part of the world, and the motion of a ferry in a stormy sea can be considerable.



Our Credo:

“Rail South America”, your South American Rail Expert, spares no expense to make your Tour the premiere experience possible. We will have you tell us what will make your trip the most special for you. If we can meet your needs, we’ll do so. If there are additional costs involved, we’ll transparently share them with you. We offer you only the finest experience. We guarantee your satisfaction.

Tour Prices



Double Room accommodations	USD \$ /person
Single Room supplement	USD \$ /person

Accommodations: We stay at 3-4* hotels during this trip.

Included:

- ✓ All services mentioned in the program, accommodations, meals, entrance fees, train & ferry tickets, and taxes. All services are private for our tour group except for the train & ferry rides and the cruise.
- ✓ The cruise in the selected cabin class from Punta Arenas to Ushuaia
- ✓ English-speaking Tour Leader and English-speaking local guides
- ✓ Flights in Economy Class from Concepción to Puerto Montt and from Bariloche to Calafate
- ✓ One piece of luggage up to 15 kg (33 lb) per person

Not Included:

- ✗ International flight tickets to Santiago de Chile and out of Ushuaia, Argentina.
- ✗ Meals not mentioned in the itinerary and drinks for ALL meals.
- ✗ Travel, health and accident insurance
- ✗ Visa costs
- ✗ Tips for local guides and driver

Day by Day Itinerary.

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Note: Given our tours' dynamic nature, ongoing adjustments to this itinerary for the tour "Patagonian Rail and Cruise" are possible. We make our best effort to comply with the scheduled program, but due to our unique travel style and the regions visited, we may deviate slightly from the itinerary to take full advantage of opportunities that arise with the various destinations, people, and cultures.

Day 1

Friday

Arrival in Santiago de Chile

You will fly into Santiago de Chile, then transfer to your hotel and check in. In the evening, we invite you to an introductory talk about the tour, where you may meet your fellow travelers and learn about the latest tour updates.



Day 2

Saturday

City Tour of Santiago de Chile

We explore the city's emblematic sites such as the Plaza de Armas, the Cathedral, the Post Office, and Santiago's Municipality. You will visit the Palacio de La Moneda, the government seat, as well as the historic center's most traditional neighborhoods. The excursion also includes a visit to the Santa Lucía hill, a true urban oasis in the city center, called Huelén by locals. We will have our "Welcome Lunch" in the city. The second part of the tour will take us to the eastern part of the capital, heart of Santiago's financial district, which is known for its modern buildings, imposing glass towers and works by prominent national architects. We will return to our hotel in the afternoon. For the rest of the day, you'll have free time.



Day 3

Train Journey from Limache to Valparaíso

Sunday

Today's excursion will take us to Limache, from which we travel by train via Viña del Mar to Valparaíso, one of the most culturally vibrant towns in Chile. You will visit the Plaza Sotomayor, the most important plaza in the city. We will have lunch in the oldest city neighborhood in Valparaíso, and after lunch we'll explore the magical labyrinth that is Valparaíso! We will travel the historic funicular to Cerro Alegre, where we'll enjoy breathtaking views over the city and the Pacific Ocean. You'll have time to walk on your own through streets full of colorful houses and art. In the late afternoon, we will return to Santiago, where we stay overnight.



Day 4

Train Journeys from Santiago to Talca and from Talca to Constitución

Monday

We go early in the morning to the Alameda Railway Station in Santiago, where we'll travel 250 km southward to Talca. In Talca, we will visit a nearby winery and have lunch. That afternoon, we'll return to the railway station and travel on the famous narrow gauge railroad from Talca to the coastal city of Constitución. This train journey is one of the most emblematic railway journeys in Chile. We'll stay overnight in Constitución.



Day 5

Tuesday

Constitución - Concepción - Puerto Montt

We will continue traveling south to Concepción, making various photo stops along the 250-km-long journey and following the oceanfront in some parts. Along the way, we'll have lunch. When we reach Concepción, we'll drive directly to the airport for our afternoon flight to Puerto Montt.



Day 6

Wednesday

“Carretera Austral” to Yelcho

We enter a region of fjords and lakes on our way south. Our first fjord crossing by ferry goes from Caleta Arenas to Puelche, a 30-minute ferry ride on which you can relish the refreshing sea breeze. We then continue south to Hornopirén, where we'll board a larger ferry that brings us to the Leptepu in about three and a half hours. From Leptepu, it is only a short drive to our last ferry of the day, a pleasant ride to Caleta Gonzalo. We'll stay overnight at the Yelcho Lodge on the shore of the lake that bears the same name.



Day 7

Thursday Lake Yelcho

Today is a low-key day. For those who are more physically active, we will organize a moderate hike departing from the hotel. This trek will take us through a temperate rain forest into a remote valley with beautiful views of the hanging glaciers. In case you prefer a more relaxed day, you can remain at the hotel and read a book or go for a walk along the shores of Lake Yelcho.



Day 8

Friday Yelcho to Esquel

We continue our journey by car to Futaleufu, a 100-km trip that takes about two hours. After Futaleufu, we will cross the border into Argentina and then travel another 80 km to Esquel, where we'll stay overnight. Note that a large portion of today's roads is not paved. You'll have free time for the remainder of the day.



Day 9

Saturday Esquel "La Trochita"

With its very narrow gauge of just 75 centimeters, the Old Patagonian Express, known popularly as "La Trochita," is Esquel's most famous attraction. We will travel on this train pulled by a steam locomotive for 18 kilometers to Nahuel Pan. There, we'll have time to shop at the local artisans' stalls at the railway station and watch the locomotive make maneuvers in preparation for the return journey to Esquel. We'll have lunch during our return trip to Esquel. The rest of the day, you will have free time.



Day 10

Sunday

Esquel to Bariloche

We will leave from Esquel to El Maitén. There we will visit the railway workshop of the “Old Patagonian Express.” This museum displays the entire history of the construction of the railroad that connects Ingeniero Jacobacci to Esquel. Across from the platform, you’ll see an exposition of pieces and tools used in the first years of operation of “La Trochita.” We will have lunch before continuing our journey for another 150 km to arrive in the late afternoon at Bariloche. The rest of the day and evening is at your leisure.



Day 11

Monday

Bariloche

We will leave Bariloche and travel west along the shores of the Nahuel Huapi Lake. A chairlift will take us up to Cerro Campanario, from which we’ll have impressive views of the lake and the imposing Andean peaks. Back on the road, we will continue along the lakeshore, crossing the Angostura River, which links the Moreno and Nahuel Huapi lakes, before arriving at Lopez Bay. There we will take advantage of yet another unique lookout spot. We’ll then cross the bridge over Moreno Lake and the Clover Lagoon to finally reach Bariloche city.



Day 12

Tuesday

Bariloche to El Calafate

We will transfer to the Bariloche Airport for the two-hour flight to El Calafate, 1400 km farther south. The beautiful town of Calafate provides access to the fascinating world of Los Glaciares National Park. Once in El Calafate, we will transfer to our Hotel. You’ll have the rest of the day at your leisure.





Day 13

Wednesday

Perito Moreno Glacier

The Journey from El Calafate to the glacier takes about one and a half hours, including stops to enjoy the panoramic views. Perito Moreno Glacier is thirty kilometers long, with a wall of ice that towers some 70 meters above the Lago Argentino. We will have lunch in a restaurant near the glacier. In the afternoon, we invite you to join us on an expeditionary cruise. We'll cruise the Brazo Rico, navigating alongside icebergs that have calved off the south front of the Perito Moreno Glacier. Reaching the Icebergs Channel, the boat will stop at a safe distance from the glacier and then sail along the glacier's entire face, allowing spectacular views of the impressive high ice walls. This excursion offers a unique view of the Perito Moreno Glacier, with chunks of ice continually falling into the water. In the late afternoon, we will return to El Calafate, where we'll spend the night.



Day 14

Thursday

El Calafate to Torres del Paine

The day begins with the pickup from our hotel in El Calafate. We will travel to the border crossing at Cancha Carrera to enter Chile. After passing through customs, we'll travel 80 km to the breathtaking Torres del Paine National Park. Once inside the park, we'll travel along the shores of Lake Toro toward Lake Grey. If the weather conditions are right, the view is stunning. We'll stay at a hotel right on the shores of Lake Grey.



Day 15

Friday

Torres del Paine National Park

This day we will drive towards the center of Torres del Paine National Park. There, we'll embark on a simple trek with a maximum height of 400 m.a.s.l, starting at 45 m.a.s.l. We'll enjoy an incredible view of the Paine River and Lake Pehoé, with its turquoise colors reflecting the magnificent Paine Range. At the top of this viewpoint, with some luck, it is possible to see condors in flight. After the descent, we'll return to the hotel for lunch. In the afternoon, we will cruise Lake Grey and visit the Grey Glacier at the lake's far end. We will stay overnight at the Hotel Lago Grey.



Day 16

Saturday

Torres del Paine National Park to Punta Arenas

Today we leave the Torres del Paine National park and drive to Puerto Natales. On the way, we'll visit the Milodon Cave. After a short visit at Puerto Natales, we'll continue our drive further south to Punta Arenas, where we'll stay overnight.



Day 17

Sunday

Punta Arenas and Start of Cruise

In the morning we invite you to join us on a city tour of Punta Arenas. Lunch is at your leisure. Mid-afternoon, we will transfer to the Harbor, where we'll check in to the M/V Australis for a 5-day/4-night cruise to Ushuaia. After a welcome-aboard toast and presentation from the captain and crew, the ship departs for one of the remotest corners of planet Earth. Overnight, we'll cross the Strait of Magellan and enter the labyrinth of channels that define Patagonia's far south.



Day 18

Monday

Cruise Ainsworth Bay - Tuckers Islets

Early in the morning of the second day, we will drive through the Almirantazgo Fjord, a tributary of the Strait of Magellan. The imposing mountain peaks of the Karukinka National Park tower over the north side of the fjord, while the southern bank features the deeply cut fjords of the Alberto de Agostini National Park. We will be slowly approaching Ainsworth Bay, our anchorage and the starting point for our first shore leave. After breakfast, the expeditionary inflatable boats (Zodiacs) will take us to the nearby coast where we'll begin our hike through the untouched flora and fauna of Tierra del Fuego. You'll have a choice between two hikes: an impressive walk through the sub-Antarctic Magellan Forest, past a peat bog and to a hidden waterfall, or a more challenging hike over the crest of a glacier moraine.



Day 19

Tuesday

Cruise Pia Glacier - Glacier Alley

Overnight we drive around the western tip of Tierra del Fuego Island through the narrow Gabriel, Magdalena and Cockburn canals. Shortly after breakfast, we'll set off in our Zodiacs towards the Pia Fjord and go ashore in the immediate vicinity of the Pia Glacier. The hike there is relatively easy, although it requires a basic level of fitness for some of the more physically demanding routes. On this hike we'll enjoy spectacular panoramic views of the impressive Pia Glacier. In the afternoon, we will take a well-deserved break on board the ship, from which we'll experience the stunning passage through Glacier Avenue. Within the span of an hour and a half, we'll observe five successive glaciers all advancing from the mountains of the Darwin Cordillera towards Beagle Channel. Enjoy the spectacular views from the outside decks, the lounges, or from the privacy of your own cabin!



Day 20

Wednesday

Cape Horn - Wulaia Bay

After passing through the Murray Canal and Nassau Bay, we finally reach Cape Horn National Park! The national park, which has been declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, includes several islands. The southernmost of these is Cape Horn Island, a wild, rocky headland rising from the sea where the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans meet. Australis is one of the very few shipping companies in the world with permission to go ashore on Cape Horn Island, given the right weather conditions. Even from the sea, you'll have an impressive view of the cape. From this southernmost point of our voyage, the ship continues its journey to the historically significant Wulaia Bay. The Yagan sea nomads once lived here, and Charles Darwin and Captain FitzRoy also visited this unique location. Australis has set up an information center in an old building that formerly served as a radio station for the Chilean Navy. Here we'll learn the exciting history of the settlement of Tierra del Fuego and Charles Darwin's expedition. When we go ashore in Wulaia Bay, you'll be able to choose between three different hiking routes.



Day 21

Thursday

Arrival in Ushuaia

On this day we reach the Argentine port city of Ushuaia. Disembarkation takes place around 8:30 a.m., after which we will transfer to our hotel to drop off the luggage. This morning we'll ride on the famous "Tren del fin del Mundo" from Ushuaia to Tierra del Fuego National Park. Along the way we will enjoy spectacular views of the Beagle Channel, Ensenada Bay, Laguna Verde, Castor Dam, and Lapataia Bay. On our return to the hotel, we'll work in a short city tour of Ushuaia.



Day 22

Friday

Departure

At the agreed time, you will be transferred to the airport to board your flight back home.



Accommodation.



Hotel Director Vitacura, Santiago

Hotel Director Vitacura offers you 4-star accommodations in the heart of the residential Vitacura district, close to Santiago's business districts, restaurants, embassies, and supermarkets. Free WiFi is available throughout the property and in the rooms. The pool, surrounded by a garden, promises relaxing moments. A fitness room is also available. The restaurant has a cozy outdoor area next to the garden.



Nuevo Hotel Constitucion, Constitucion

The Nuevo Hotel Constitucion offers an outdoor swimming pool and a restaurant. The hotel has free WiFi, and the air-conditioned rooms each have a flat-screen TV and a minibar. The private bathrooms are fitted with a bathtub, shower and hairdryer. The train station is 1.2 km away.



Hotel Puelche, Puerto Varas

Hotel Puelche is located in the center of Puerto Varas and is decorated in a typical mountain style. All rooms are spacious and feature modern interiors with a blend of select woods. The rooms also include a private bathroom, a TV and a minibar. The hotel additionally features a restaurant, spa, sauna and massage service. Free WiFi is available



Hotel Yelcho, Lake Yelcho

The Hotel Yelcho is a picturesque Alpine-style house with wooden gable roofs and a private garden. The heated hotel rooms are large, with comfortable seating areas and broad windows providing views of the garden. All rooms come with a private bathroom, and WiFi is available in the common areas. Yelcho Beach is just 1 km away.



Hotel Las Bayas, Esquel

The elegant Hotel Las Bayas is located in the center of Esquel. All suites have an LCD TV, desk, minibar, sitting area with table and chairs or recliner, heat and air conditioning, king-sized or double bed and a private bathroom. Las Bayas hotel offers free WiFi in all its common areas and suites.



Huinid Bustillo Hotel & Spa, Bariloche

Wonderful hotel in a quiet location above the lake. The city center is a few minutes away by taxi. From the rooms you have spectacular views over the lake Nahuel Hapi. The Hotel has comfortable rooms, all with Cable TV and private bathrooms. The hotel restaurant is excellent. Wifi is available in all parts of the hotel.



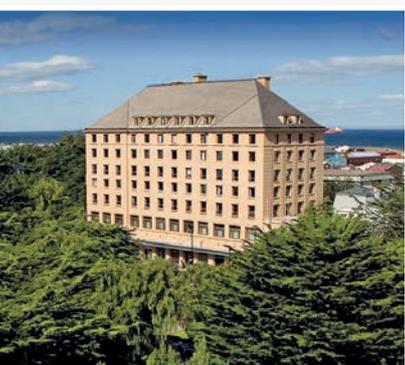
Posada Los Alamos, Calafate

Posada Los Alamos is located in the heart of El Calafate, near Lake Argentino. It features wellness facilities and an indoor pool. Free WiFi is available in all areas. Your heated room comes with a minibar and cable TV. From the rooms, you'll have a view of the organic garden and the mountains beyond.



Hotel Lago Grey, Torres del Paine

The Hotel Lago Grey lies in the heart of the Torres del Paine National Park on the shores of Lake Grey. The inn offers top-class facilities and finely decorated suites with a direct view of the Grey Glacier. The hotel has central heating, a buffet breakfast, telephone and laundry service.



Hotel Cabo de Hornos, Punta Arenas

The elegant Cabo de Hornos Hotel is located in the historic city of Punta Arenas. Recently renovated, the hotel offers avant-garde interior design, luxury rooms, free WiFi and a stylish restaurant. The comfortable rooms are decorated with local woods and luxurious rugs, and each room has a private bathroom, a separate bathtub and a TV.



Hotel Cauquenes, Ushuaia

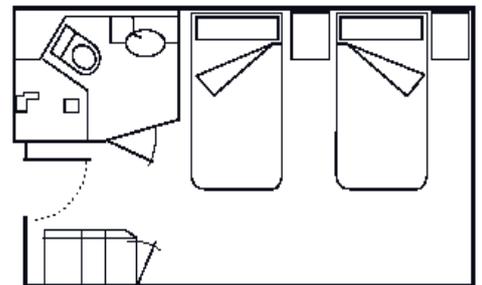
Los Cauquenes Resort is a high-class hotel offering beautiful panoramic views of the Beagle Channel and the mountains. The luxury accommodations include personalized service and access to a private beach. The elegant rooms are comfortable and feature satellite TV, a minibar, heating, extra-long beds, a desk, and a private bathroom. Free WiFi is available.



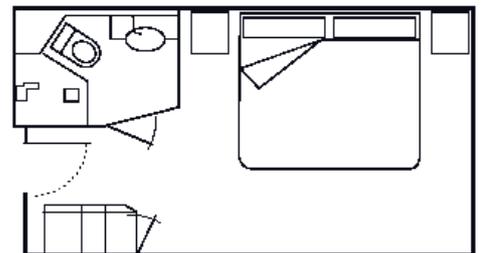
Accommodations aboard the ship of the Australis fleet

The vessels Stella Australis, built in 2010, and Ventus Australis, built in 2017, are Expedition Vessels specifically designed to operate in isolated regions, making them the perfect fit for exploring the remote Tierra del Fuego region. These spacious, five-deck vessels have 100 cabins that sleep up to 200 guests and include extensive indoor and outdoor social areas where guests can fully enjoy the unsurpassed splendor of a tour around the southern tip of South America.

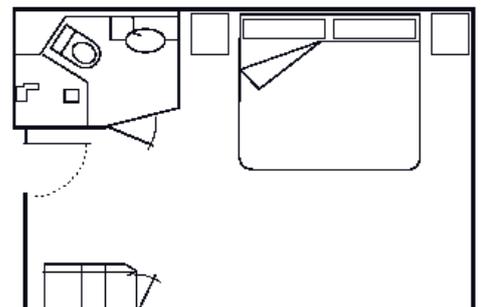
Twin Cabin 16,5m² / 177sq.ft



Double Bed Cabin 16,5m² / 117sq.ft



Superior Cabin 20,5m² / 177sq.ft



Ready to Book?

If so, please use the “RESERVE MY SEAT” button to enter your personal information. We will then contact you to discuss further details of the trip and how to proceed with registration.



Questions?

Give me a call!

+593 981 312 458

