



Patagonian Rail & Cruise

6 - 28 October 2023

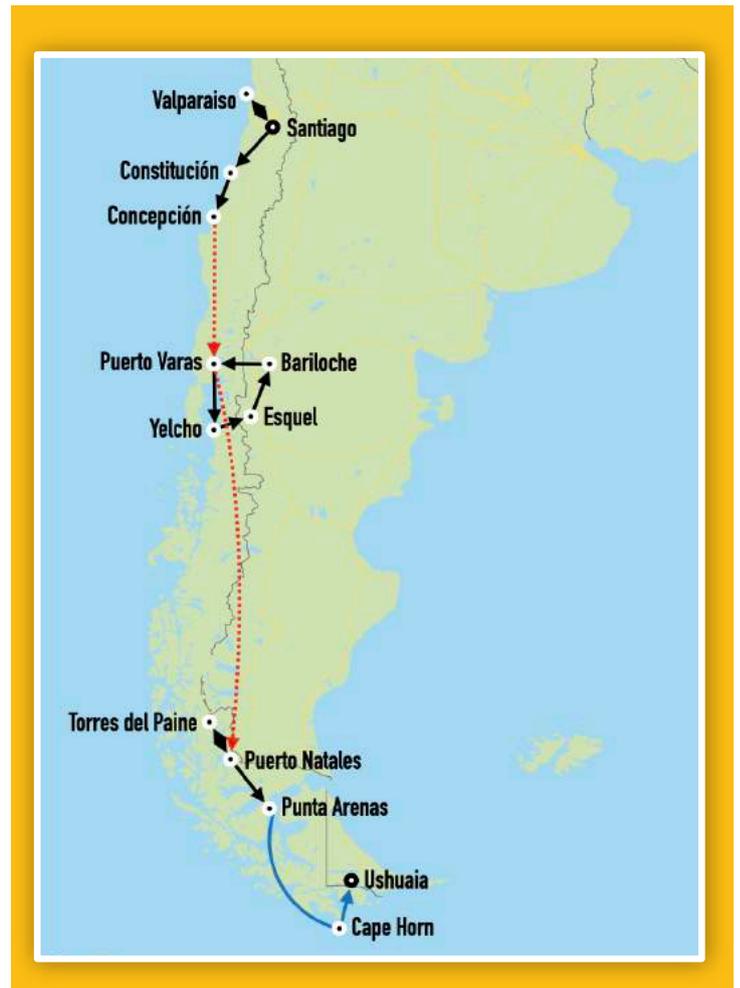


23
days



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 travel the famous "Cruce Andino" back to Puerto Varas in Chile. We'll fly from Puerto Montt to Puerto Natales 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.

Altitude is not an issue on this journey.

Bellboys at hotels and porters in railway stations and ferry terminals are not available. Each person has to carry their own luggage at the border crossings. We recommend traveling as light as possible.

Patagonia is famous for its changeable weather. We maintain the right to adjust the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances and due to current or anticipated weather conditions.



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.



Price with Cruise

Double Room accommodations	USD \$ 12'640/person
Single Room supplement	USD \$ 2'386/person

Price without the Cruise

The tour ends on Day 19 with the transfer to the Airport in Punta Arenas.

Double Room accommodations	USD \$ 9'840/person
Single Room supplement	USD \$ 1'186/person

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.
- ✓ English-speaking Tour Leader and English-speaking local guides
- ✓ Flights in Economy Class from Concepción to Puerto Montt and from Puerto Montt to Puerto Natales
- ✓ One piece of luggage up to 15 kg (33 lb) per person
- ✓ The cruise in "A" cabin class (Magelan Deck) from Punta Arenas to Ushuaia

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.
- ✗ Embarkation Tax Punta Arenas USD 75.-- (subject to change without further notice)
- ✗ 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 & 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 our 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

Sunday

Train Journey from Limache to Valparaíso

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

Monday

Train Journeys from Santiago to Talca and from Talca to Constitución

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 Varas

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. From the Airport in Puerto Montt it is a short drive to Puerto Varas where we stay overnight.



Day 6

Wednesday

Osorno Volcano

On this exciting excursion, you explore the Osorno volcano. After pickup in Puerto Varas, we will travel along the shore of Lake Llanquihue to the conical Osorno volcano. We will drive up through the verdant forest as we ascend Osorno. During the climb, you can enjoy views of Lake Llanquihue and the Calbuco volcano. We will reach the Ski and Mountain Center parking space at 1,240 meters. We will take the chairlift to the glacier station, where you can photograph the magnificent scenery and look up at the glaciers to the volcano's summit. We have a box lunch near the chairlift station. We will return to Puerto Varas the in the afternoon.



Day 7

Thursday

“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 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 Bolsón. There we will visit a local fruit farm specialized in producing a large variety of berries. The small town of El Bolsón is also famous for its souvenir market which takes place downtown. 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**

Day at leisure in Bariloche



Day 13

Wednesday

Cruze Andino from Bariloche to Puerto Varas

We're picked up from our Bariloche hotel to begin this full-day excursion. We'll drive along the shores of Lake Nahuel Huapi to Puerto Pañuelo. After boarding a catamaran and sailing to Puerto Blest across Lake Nahuel Huapi, we'll make our way overland to Puerto Alegre. After a 20-minute cruise on Lake Frías, we'll arrive in Puerto Frías. After crossing the Argentine border at Paso Perez Rosales into Chile, we have our meal break in Puella. Our third and final cruise across Lake Todos Los Santos will take us to Petrohue. A final bus ride brings us from Petrohue to Puerto Varas.



Day 14

Thursday

Puerto Varas - Torres del Paine

We will depart early morning for Puerto Montt airport, where we will fly to Puerto Natales in southern Chile. We will then drive directly to Torres del Paine National Park. Once inside the park, we'll travel along the shores of Lake Toro towards our hotel. If the weather conditions are right, the view is stunning. We'll stay at a hotel near the shores of the Serrano River.



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 Pehóé, 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. The rest of the afternoon, you have time to enjoy the hotel or explore the surroundings of the hotel. We will stay overnight at the Hotel Rio Serrano.



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

Magellanic Penguins on Magdalena Island

We sail through the Strait of Magellan to the Magdalena and Marta Islands to see the Magellanic Penguins and the sea lions. We begin this excursion by boarding a speedboat and sailing for 45 minutes to Magdalena Island, where we walk with our guide learning about the Magellanic Penguin's natural habitat. We continue our journey to Marta Island (if the weather allows) to see sea lions, imperial cormorants, Antarctic Terns, and hundreds of Dolphin Gulls, in addition to Southern and Piebald Dolphins. Then we return to Punta Arenas.



Day 18

Monday

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 19

Tuesday

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 20

Wednesday

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 21

Thursday

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. 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 22

Friday

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 23

Saturday

Departure

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

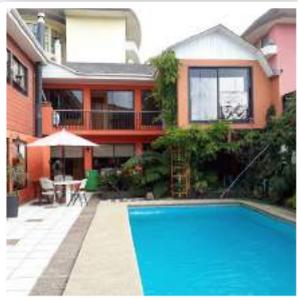


Accommodation.



Hotel Cumbres Lastarria, Santiago de Chile

The Hotel Cumbres Lastarria is a modern design boutique hotel in one of the most bohemian neighborhoods of Santiago. The hotel has modern architecture and a privileged location in the heart of a charming neighborhood famous for its cultural history, museums, commerce, and gastronomy. It is the perfect place to get to know and enjoy this city sector's beautiful cultural and gastronomic life.



Hotel Sweet Dreams, Constitución

The Hotel Sweet Dreams is a charming hotel in the center of Constitución. Nevenka Andereya is an excellent host. The comfortable rooms guarantee a good night of sleep. The hotel prepares an excellent dinner and breakfast, and the cozy livingroom invites you to chat leisurely with other hotel guests watching TV. The hotel is one of the best options to stay overnight in Constitución. The Hotel is about five blocks away from the railway station.



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 Cumbre Blanca, Esquel

The Hotel Cumbre Blanca is located in the center of Esquel. All rooms have an LCD TV, desk, minibar, sitting area with table, heat and air conditioning, king-sized or double bed and a private bathroom. Cumbre Blanca Hotel offers free WiFi in all its common areas and suites. Additionally, the hotel complex houses a restaurant and bar.



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.



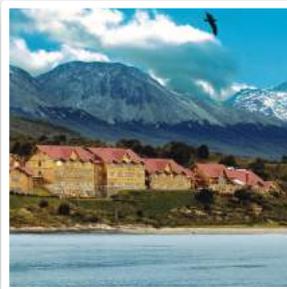
Hotel Rio Serrano, Torres del Paine

The Hotel Rio Serrano lies in the heart of the Torres del Paine National Park not far from the shores of Serrano River. The inn offers top-class facilities and finely decorated suites with a direct view of the Serrano River and the Torres del Paine Mountain range. 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.

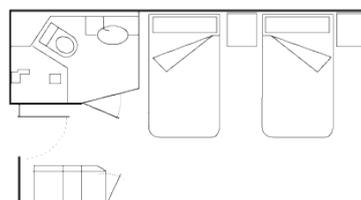


Accommodations aboard the ships of the Australis fleet

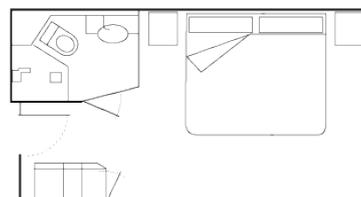


The vessels Stella Australis, built in 2010, and Ventus Australis, built in 2017, are Expedition Vessels specifically designed to operate in isolated regions, making them the perfect fit for exploring the remote Tierra del Fuego region. These spacious, five-deck vessels have 100 cabins that sleep up 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.

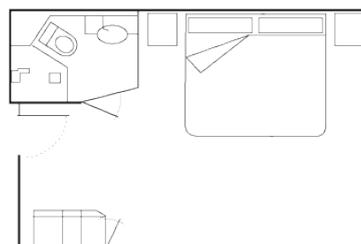
Twin Cabin 16,5m² / 178sq.ft

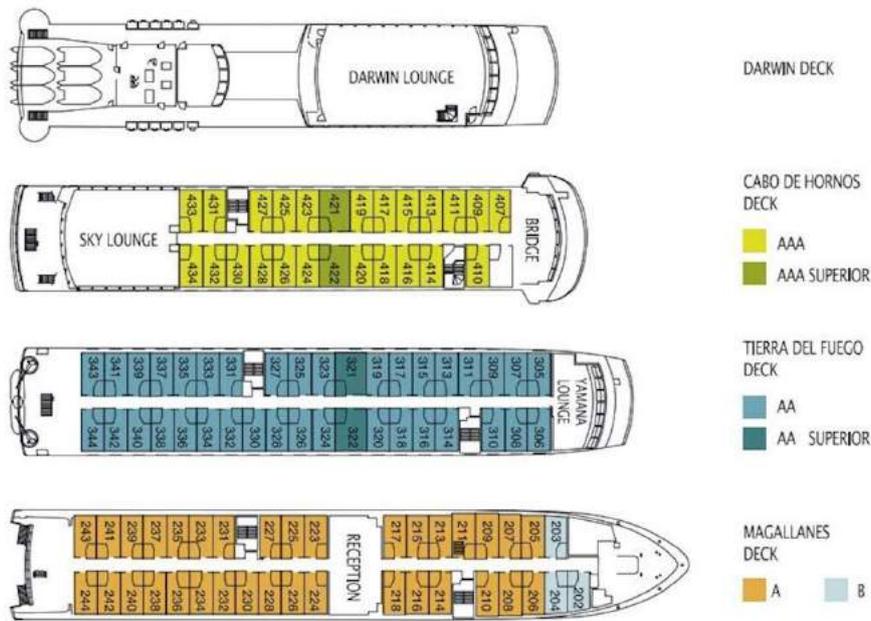


Double Bed Cabin 16,5m² / 178sq.ft



Superior Cabin 20,5m² / 221sq.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

