



PHOTO BY NAHUEL PATINO



CHILE & ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires, Bariloche & Lake Crossing, Puerto Varas, And Cruising Patagonia
Exclusive tour for the Fellows of the National Tropical Botanical Garden

Hosted by Chipper & Hau'oli Wichman

October 30 - November 10, 2017

Explore some of the most beautiful sites in the world as you traverse the famous Lake Crossing from Bariloche to Puerto Varas, and cruise through the Strait of Magellan in luxurious style. Have the opportunity to explore some of the best of Buenos Aires and Patagonia and let the magic take hold of you throughout this 12 day expedition with wonderful accommodations and excellent guides. You will not want to miss this specially arranged tour, hosted by Chipper & Hau'oli Wichman.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Take a guided hike in Lahuen Nadi Private Park, a park that preserves small samples of the beautiful Alerce (*Fitzroya cupressoides*) Forests of the Central Valley.
- Spend 5 days on a luxury cruise vessel exploring fiords, glaciers, marine life, and snow covered mountains.
- Visit Cape Horn National Park, for years it was known as the "End of the Earth." The park was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2005.
- Experience the best of Buenos Aires, a city alive with Tango, history, beautiful architecture and parks, and a fabulous Botanical Garden.

ITINERARY

OCTOBER 30 - PALERMO SOHO

Upon arrival, after clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be met by your guide and transferred to your hotel. Should you have a morning arrival, early check in will be available. Late this afternoon, meet with your fellow travelers and guide in the lobby for a short walk in the beautiful neighborhood of Buenos Aires known as Palermo Soho, where your hotel is located. You will have dinner at a local restaurant this evening. *Overnight at Esplendor Palermo Soho. (D)*

OCTOBER 31 - PALERMO SOHO

Today you will be given a guided tour of Buenos Aires. You will see, among other points of interest: Plaza de Mayo (The Main Square), Casa Rosada (the Presidential Palace), the Cathedral of Buenos Aires, 9 de Julio Avenue (the widest avenue in the world), Teatro Colón (The Buenos Aires Opera House), Obelisco, La Boca neighborhood with its colorful Caminito Street, San Martín Square, the amazing Recoleta Cemetery, and the beautiful Palermo Parks. You will also visit Jardín Botánico Carlos Thays de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires. During the tour you be able to enjoy lunch at a harbor restaurant. This evening is at leisure to explore your surroundings and the restaurant of your choice. *Overnight at Esplendor Palermo Soho. (BL)*

NOVEMBER 1 - BARILOCHE

After a leisurely breakfast this morning, you will check out and meet your guide and driver, who will be transferred to the Buenos Aires Municipal Airport for your flight to Bariloche, departing at approximately 11:45 am and arriving at approximately 2 pm. You will be met by your local guide who will transfer you to your hotel. Following check in, you will have the opportunity to explore your surroundings and then meet with your fellow travelers at approximately 6 pm to go into town for a tour of the area. Should you wish to meet your fellow travelers in town (for the tour), that can be arranged with your guide. Enjoy dinner at a restaurant along Lake Nahuel Huapi. *Overnight at Bustillo Hotel Villa Huinid. (BD)*

NOVEMBER 2 - LAKE CROSSING/PUERTO VARAS

This morning, begin your full day Lake Crossing from Bariloche to Puerto Varas, Chile. You will travel by bus to Puerto Pañuelo, along Lake Nahuel Huapi. Along the way, marvel at the beautiful Swiss style architecture that characterizes all the buildings in the area, with beautiful gardens and flowers that color the place to Pañuelo Port where you will board the catamaran for sailing on Lake Nahuel Huapi for an hour to Puerto Blest. At approximately 10:30 am you will set sail, for a distance of 15 miles, enjoying the grandeur of the landscape, the green of the forests that surround you, while learning about the history of this area. Upon arrival at Puerto Blest, you will board a bus which travels along the Frias River for three miles to Puerto Alegre. Then continue on the ship "City of Faith", sailing on Lake Frías, with its peaceful and pristine waters of a deep green color due to Puerto Frías. On this tour we will have the beautiful view offered by the Tronador Volcano which reaches up to 3,491 meters. After a short voyage of about 20 minutes, you reach the small port of Puerto Frías, inserted in the middle of beautiful vegetation. At about 12:30 pm, after making the departure procedures at the Aduana Argentina at Puerto Frías, continue by bus to Peulla. Appreciate the lush vegetation of the Cordillera de Los Andes, as you watch the Tronador Volcano with 9 glaciers on its summit. You will enter the Pérez Rosales National Park at Peulla. After entry formalities are carried out in Peulla, Chile, transfer to Hotel Natura Patagonia Peulla, where you will have lunch (cost not included). At 3:30 pm, you will depart via vessel, sailing on Lake Todos los Santos. If the weather allows, you will have new views of Osorno and

Tronador Volcanoes and Puntagudo Hill. You will then board a bus and continue your journey. En route visit the Saltos del Petrohué (admission cost not included), which are capricious shapes of volcanic rock, bathed in green waterfalls. Continue the drive with views of Llanquihue Lake and Osorno Volcano, and Calbuco Volcano. You will arrive in Puerto Varas at approximately 6:30 pm, and transferred to your hotel, which is located on the beautiful Llanquihue Lake, with stunning views of Volcano Osorno, which you have just seen during your journey this afternoon. Evening at leisure. *Overnight at Radisson Hotel Puerto Varas. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 3 - PUERTO VARAS

This morning you will visit the Philippi Botanical Garden in Puerto Varas. In Chile, the history of the Botanical Gardens started with Dr. Rodulfo Armando Philippi, a German botanic that was contracted for the Chilean government to head the National Museum and to protect a Botanical Garden. This afternoon a guided hike in Lahuen Nadi Private Park has been arranged, including a nice picnic lunch. The Lahuen Nadi Park is an area of great importance since it preserves a small sample of the beautiful Alerce (*Fitzroya cupressoides*) Forests of the Central Valley, practically extinguished due to overexploitation. Another sample of flora that can be seen is the Coigües (*Nothofagus dombeyi*) and Cinnamon Trees (*Canelos*). During your walk you might also see birds such as the Chucaco (*Scelorchilus rubecula*), Huet-Huet (*Pteroptochos castaneus*), and Diucón (*Xolmis pyrope*). Late this afternoon, you will be given a sunset cruise on Lake Llanquihue. This evening is at leisure. *Overnight at Radisson Hotel Puerto Varas. (BL)*

NOVEMBER 4 - PATAGONIA

This morning you will be transferred to Puerto Montt for your flight to Punta Arenas, departing at approximately 1:50 pm, arriving at 4:00 pm. Bid your guide farewell at the Puerto Montt Airport. (It is suggested that you grab a snack at the airport for your lunch). Upon arrival in Punta Arenas, after collecting your luggage, you will be met by your local guide who will assist you with your transfer to the check in spot for your cruise on Stella Australis, which is at 1385 O'Higgins Street (Arturo Prat Port) before 5:00 pm. You will board the M/V Stella Australis at 6 pm. After a welcoming cocktail reception hosted by the captain and his crew, the ship departs for one of the remotest corners of planet Earth. During the night you will cross the Strait of Magellan and enter the labyrinth of channels that define the southern extreme of Patagonian. The twinkling lights of Punta Arenas gradually fade into the distance as you enter the Whiteside Canal between Darwin Island and Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego. *Overnight at M/V Stella Australis. (BD)*

NOVEMBER 5 - PATAGONIA

By dawn the ship is sailing up Admiralty Sound (Seno Almirantazgo), a spectacular offshoot of the Strait of Magellan that stretches nearly halfway across Tierra del Fuego. The snowcapped peaks of Karukinka Natural Park stretch along the north side of the sound, while the south shore is defined by the deep fjords and broad Bays of Alberto de Agostini National Park. You will go ashore at Ainsworth Bay, which harbors copious bird life and a colony of southern elephant seals which can sometimes be spotted from the Zodiacs. Two guided excursions are available: one is along the edge of a stream, peat bog and beaver habitat to a waterfall and moss covered rock face tucked deep inside a pristine sub polar forest; the other is a more strenuous hike along the crest of a glacial moraine. Both afford views of Marinelli Glacier and the Darwin Mountains. Leaving Ainsworth Bay behind, you sail west along the sound to the Tucker Islets. After lunch, you will board the Zodiacs again for a close up view of the Magellan penguins that inhabit the tiny islands. More than 4,000 penguins use Tucker as a place to nest, give birth and nurture their chicks. Many other bird species also frequent the area including king cormorants, oystercatchers, Chilean skuas, kelp

geese, dolphin gulls, eagles and even the occasional Andean condor. In September and April, when the penguins live elsewhere, this excursion is replaced by a short walk to a glacier at nearby stunning Brookes Bay. *Overnight at M/V Stella Australis. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 6 - PATAGONIA

Overnight you will sail around the western end of Tierra del Fuego via the very narrow Gabriel Channel, Magdalena Channel and Cockburn Channel. After rounding the remote Brecknock Peninsula, Stella Australis tacks eastward and enters the Beagle Channel again. By morning you are entering Pia Fjord and boarding the Zodiacs for a shore excursion to Pia Glacier. After disembarking take a short hike to gain a panoramic view of the spectacular glacier, which extends from the mountaintops down to the sea or a longer much more difficult walk up a lateral moraine of the old Pia Glacier. No one knows for certain how the hulking mass of snow and ice got its feminine moniker, but one theory says it was named for Princess Maria Pia of Savoy (1847-1911), daughter of the Italian king. Back onboard the ship, you continue east along the Beagle Channel through an area called Glacier Alley. Living up to its name, the passage features a number of impressive tidewater glaciers flowing down from the Darwin Mountains and Darwin Ice Sheet on the north shore. Most of them named after European countries Holland, Italy, Germany, Spain and France. *Overnight at M/V Stella Australis. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 7 - PATAGONIA

During the early morning your captain will navigate the narrow Murray Channel between Navarino and Hoste islands and drop anchor at historic Wulaia Bay, one of the few places in the archipelago where the human history is just as compelling as the natural environment. Originally the site of one of the region's largest Yámana aboriginal settlements, the bay was described by Charles Darwin and sketched by Captain FitzRoy in the 1830s during their voyages on the HMS Beagle. This area is also renowned for its mesmerizing beauty and dramatic geography. After a visit to the Australis sponsored museum in the old radio station, which is especially strong on the Yámana people and European missionaries in the area, passengers have a choice of three hikes (of increasing degrees of difficulty) that ascend the heavily wooded mountain behind the bay. On all of these you will be strolling through an enchanted Magellan forest of lengas, coigües, canelos, ferns, and other endemic fauna to reach a panoramic viewpoint overlooking the bay. Before leaving Wulaia Bay, drop something into the wooden mail barrel inside the museum letters or postcards meant to be hand delivered by future travelers an ancient mariner tradition revived by Australis. In the afternoon you will cruise across Nassau Bay into the remote archipelago that includes Cape Horn National Park. Weather and sea conditions permitting, you will go ashore on the windswept island that harbors legendary Cape Horn (Cabo de Hornos). Discovered in 1616 by a Dutch maritime expedition and named after the town of Hoorn in West Friesland, Cape Horn is a sheer 425 meter (1,394 foot) high rocky promontory overlooking the turbulent waters of the Drake Passage. For many years it was the only navigation route between the Pacific and Atlantic, and was often referred to as the "End of the Earth." The park was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2005. The Chilean navy maintains a permanent lighthouse on the island, staffed by a lightkeeper and his family, as well as the tiny Stella Maris Chapel and modern Cape Horn Monument. *Overnight at M/V Stella Australis. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 8 - PALERMO SOHO

The following morning you set sail into Argentine waters and dock in Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city. Stella Australis is scheduled to arrive at 8:30 am or 9:30 am (arrival time varies due to weather conditions). Upon arrival, you will be met by your local guide who will accompany you to the bus that will house your luggage as you take a walking tour of Ushuaia, including lunch. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires which departs at about 2:30 pm, arriving at the Buenos Aires International Airport at approximately 6 pm. After collecting your luggage, you will be met and transferred back to Esplendor Palermo Soho. You will have the evening at leisure. *Overnight at Esplendor Palermo Soho. (BL)*

NOVEMBER 9 - PALERMO SOHO

You will have the today at leisure to explore the great city of Buenos Aires. You may wish to take in your museum(s) of choice, spend more time in the Botanical Garden and then visit the city's Zoo located across the street from the garden, go on a shopping spree at the finest of stores in Palermo, revisit La Boca, or simply enjoy the amenities of your hotel and the local cafés. This evening, meet your fellow travelers and your local guide and driver who will transfer you to La Ventana for an amazing evening of dinner and entertainment, Tango style! La Ventana is a diverse and superb old school Tango show, with the same style of the great tango orchestras of the forties. A group of master tango musicians invite you to listen to excellent music while the passion, fire and charm of the tango dance are expressed by dancing couples. Also included is a folklore show with dancers and musicians from the Altiplano. Dinner will be Argentine specialties including good Argentine wine offered as well as an international selection. After your time at La Ventana, you will be transferred back to your hotel. *Overnight at Esplendor Palermo Soho. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 10 - DEPARTURE

This morning you will be transferred to the Buenos Aires International Airport for your departure. (B)

LAND COST

\$7,150 per person (16 participants)

Pricing includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as listed in the itinerary, private vehicle transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, flights within South America, professional guides, tips/gratuities for drivers, guides, and porters, bottled water on bus, \$500 donation to the National Tropical Botanical Garden and carbon offset. Does not include items of a personal nature, tips/gratuities for waiters/waitresses and housekeeping, and round-trip international airfare.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$1,785. A deposit of \$1,500 per person, which is non-refundable, is due by June 30, 2017. Final payments are due no later than June 30, 2017; cancellations received after this date are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.



PHOTO BY LISA PALMESE-GRAUBARD



PHOTO BY SANDY SCHMIDT



PHOTO BY DEBBIE STURDIVANT



PHOTO BY TODD GUSTAFSON, GUSTAFSON PHOTO SAFARI



PHOTO BY SANDY SCHMIDT

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL
Visit holbrook.travel/NTBG17 or contact Sandy Schmidt at 877-907-5360 or email schmidt@holbrooktravel.com