

- OUR TRIPS

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WHY TRAVEL WITH US
- Africa

Asia

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DESTINATIONS

SOUTH AMERICA

ROUNDING THE CAPE: CHILEAN PATAGONIA & ARGENTINA'S STATEN ISLAND



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## Expedition Details

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| Expedition Details                    |
| Ship/Deck Plan                        |
| Expedition Moments from Our Travelers |
| Need More Info?                       |

From the wilds of Tierra del Fuego to the pinnacles of Torres del Paine National Park, experience Patagonia at close range aboard *National Geographic Explorer*. Trace Chile's coast south from Puerto Montt, venturing deep into a maze of islands and glorious fjords. Pass incandescent icebergs and massive glaciers, and watch for elephant seals and Andean condors, humpbacks, dolphins, and penguin colonies. Encounter the incomparable landscapes of Torres del Paine National Park, and round Cape Horn in the wake of history's great explorers. Cap off

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## Days 1 & 2 — U.S./Santiago, Chile

Arrive in Santiago, Chile after an overnight flight and check into the Grand Hyatt Hotel. Santiago is nearly surrounded by the Andes, which form an inspiring backdrop to our afternoon guided overview of this vibrant city. We explore the Plaza de Armas, the main square, and nearby Presidential Palace, enjoying wonderful views from the many hills that ring the city. (Day 2: D)

## Day 3 — Puerto Montt

The next day, fly to Puerto Montt, the northern gateway to Chilean Patagonia. Time permitting, we'll explore the city and its environs before embarking *National Geographic Explorer*. (B,L,D)

## Days 4 & 5 — Castro (Chiloé Island)/Pumalín National Park

We spend the day exploring Chiloé's culture and natural history, including visiting the palafitos, colorful fishermen's houses precariously built on stilts along the water's edge. You may also choose to visit Chiloé National Park to see its forests, wetlands and wildlife, with a selection of longer or shorter walks. The next day head into Pumalín National Park, whose 750,00 acres are home to some of the last forests of the huge and ancient alerce tree. Go on a forest walk with naturalists, discover a hidden waterfall, or take an energetic climb along a rushing stream. (B,L,D)

## Days 6 through 9 — The Inland Passage and The Chilean Fjords

Venture into a vast wilderness of snow-capped peaks and mirror-like lakes, thick glaciers and islets blanketed with vegetation. In this pristine landscape, fjords cut between soaring granite walls and waterfalls splash down from high above. Set out to explore in Zodiacs and kayaks and on foot, and peer beneath the water using our undersea imaging technology. A highlight today is Pio XI Glacier, the longest glacier in the southern hemisphere outside of Antarctica. Encounter the ice first by Zodiac and then hike atop it. As the ship makes its way through the Kirke Narrows, look for condors and other wildlife. (B,L,D)

## Day 10 — Puerto Natales/Torres Del Paine National Park

From Puerto Natales, enjoy a breathtaking drive to Torres del Paine National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere, looking for razor-backed ridges, Andean condors, flamingos, and rheas along the way. This is one of the most spectacular and wildlife-rich areas in the Americas, covering 450,000 acres of glaciers, forests, and grasslands, rivers, and gem-colored lagoons, and crowned with the blackened, twisted pinnacles of the Torres del Paine mountains. Learn about the flora, fauna, and geology of the park with our naturalists. (B,L,D)

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## Days 11, 12, & 13 — White Narrows/Exploring Tierra Del Fuego: Karukinka Natural Park

Continue to the newest and largest protected area on Tierra del Fuego: Karukinka, meaning "our land" in the language of the ancient inhabitants. We have obtained permission to visit the private reserve, which harbors abundant wildlife, including the guanaco, the endangered culpeo fox, and the Andean condor. (B,L,D)

## Day 14 — Chilean Fjords/Beagle Channel & Yendegaia National Park

Glide into narrow fjords by Zodiac and kayak and discover glaciers, verdant forests, and myriad bird species. Sail the Beagle Channel to Yendegaia, a 370,000 acre national park of stunning wilderness created in 2013 out of a former cattle ranch and a grant of adjacent government land. (B,L,D)

## Day 15 — Cape Horn

The next day, we round Cape Horn, the southernmost tip of South America, and, weather permitting, take Zodiacs ashore for panoramic views. (B,L,D)

## Days 16, 17, & 18 — Isla de Los Estados (Staten Island), Argentina

We have received special permission to visit Isla de los Estados, whose wild, untouched landscapes are home to colonies of southern rockhopper and Magellanic penguins, countless water birds, fur seals, otters, and sea lions. Our exact schedule will remain flexible to take best advantage of conditions for exploring this wonderland of beech forests, mountains, and breathtaking fjords. See the 1884 San Juan de Salvamento "lighthouse at the end of the world," which inspired Jules Verne's novel of the same name, along with the ruins of a penal colony and perhaps an archaeological site dating back 1,500 years. The *National Geographic Explorer* is one of the only expedition ships to be

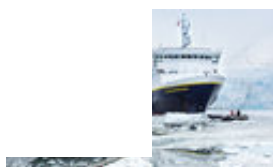
granted access here, and the experience is bound to be unforgettable.

(B,L,D)

### Days 19 & 20 — Ushuaia/Buenos Aires/U.S.

Disembark in Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world. Take a charter flight to Buenos Aires and connect to your overnight flight home. (Day 19: B,L)

## Related Trips



Exploring Chilean  
Patagonia: Peaks,  
Glaciers, and Fjords



Patagonian  
Treasures: Torres  
del Paine to Cape  
Horn

