

# CHILE

Few South American countries boast a landscape and climate as diverse as Chile. Although on average only 180 kilometres wide, it stretches over 4,000 kilometres from north to south which, in European terms, represents a distance and range of climates from Norway's icy northern tip to the barren sands of the Sahara Desert in Africa. In between, Chile offers fertile valleys well-known for their high quality wines, and serene lakes with a backdrop of snowcapped volcanoes and the Andes mountain range.

Photographs and information: [web veloso.com/chile](http://web.veloso.com/chile)

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### Desert

Mummies and treasures of the Atacameño culture lie hidden in the vast stretch of arid desert that makes up northern Chile. This area of supreme natural beauty encompasses salt lakes, the stunning Tatio Geysers and picturesque villages.

### Lake District

Fertile countryside punctuated by snow-capped volcanoes and brilliant emerald lakes provide the visitor with a variety of excursions and activities, such as walking, horse riding, skiing or camping under the stars in the Andes.

### Patagonia

Southern Chile embraces the romantic wilderness of Patagonia, a land of glaciers, immense granite peaks, and the barren, windswept tip of South America sinks into the myriad of islands and icy waters of Tierra del Fuego, Cape Horn, Beagle Channel and Magellan Straits. Place names given by early navigators tell the story of their experience: Desolate Bay, East and West Furies and Useless Bay.



Flamingos at Lauca National Park





Magnificent mountain views in the high Andes at Cajon del Maipo, two hours from Santiago

## SANTIAGO & SURROUNDINGS [web veloso.com/santiago](http://veloso.com/santiago)



Santiago de Chile with the backdrop of Cordillera

The conquistador Pedro de Valdivia founded Santiago de Chile in 1541 at the point where the Mapocho and Maipo Rivers meet. Surrounded by mountains, the city is an ideal base to explore both the Andes and Pacific Ocean coastline. Valdivia marked the centre of colonial Santiago with the Plaza de Armas and his house was located where the central Post Office now stands. This clean, tree-lined square is now a focal point for local people, with artists in Bohemian Bellavista and lovers at Santa Lucia.

### Valparaiso

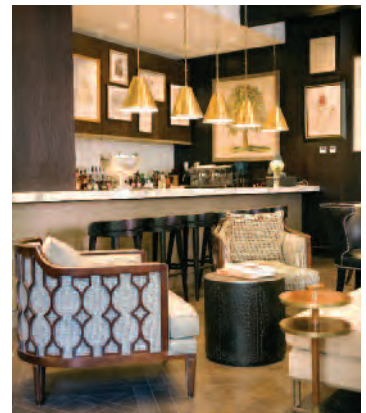
Valparaiso is a city of character and culture, whose wealth and importance was established by its port in the days before the Panama Canal. The downtown area is surrounded by hills covered in houses of different colours, its steep and winding streets are ideally explored on foot, or by riding the funicular railways which connect the hillside neighbourhoods. Many of the grand houses have been converted into boutique hotels, with terraces and views out over the Pacific Ocean.

### Excursions available:

- Cajon del Maipo Lodge for walks in Andean mountains (top of this page)
- Santa Rita Country House and Canas de Maipo
- Undurraga & Veramonte Vineyards
- Wines of the Casablanca, Maipo, Aconcagua Valleys
- Isla Negra & Pablo Neruda's Museum
- Horseriding the Andes
- Handicraft Market & Santa Lucia Hill
- Valle Nevado (skiing possible)
- Viña del Mar & Valparaiso
- Food and Cookery Tour
- Discover Chilean Street Art

### The Singular *Deluxe Boutique*

The Singular Santiago is an bastion of luxury and sophistication in the bohemian-chic, historic Lastarria neighbourhood. The rooms are furnished in a blend of classic and modern styles, exuding the charm of a bygone era with all modern conveniences. There is a rooftop terrace and bar with views of the city and the nearby park, and a small swimming pool. Downstairs there is also a lobby bar and a restaurant.



Singular Santiago Hotel

### Solace Hotel *First*

Solace is a bright, modern hotel decorated in natural wood and neutral tones. Located in leafy, residential Providencia, is is slightly removed from the downtown hustle and bustle, while being only a short taxi ride away. The 108 rooms are spacious, stylish and contemporary, benefit from soundproofing and have premium bedding for a good night's sleep. There is a restaurant, rooftop bar and small pool, and many bars and restaurants in the surrounding streets.

PRICES FROM 4 days • 3 nights

SANTIAGO DE CHILE	
The Singular	£666
Solace Hotel	£375

Prices are per person in a Standard Room for double occupancy including accommodation and Breakfast, tax, service charge and transfers.  
\*Prices for Triple room, Single Room on request.

Santiago's Presidential Palace



# WINE REGION

Chile's wine growing region has long been known for producing excellent wines exported around the world. Located within driving distance of Santiago, it makes a wonderful day trip or extended stay of several days in order to relax, taste the local wines, and enjoy the rolling hills and countryside. Different valleys within the region have different characters: **Maipo Valley** is the oldest wine producing area, close to the city, with hot dry summers, hot days and cool nights, perfect for intense red wines. **Casablanca Valley** is located in the west, close to the ocean, and thus has a cooler more humid climate suited to white wines and light reds. **Colchagua Valley** is located further south, with hot summers and rich mineral soils produces some of the best wines in Chile.

## Terra Viña *First*

Located in the heart of the Colchagua valley, on the outskirts of the town of Santa Cruz, Terra Viña is a small hotel set among vineyards and next to a traditional winery. The 19 rooms are tastefully decorated and each has its own balcony with a splendid view. There is also a restaurant and pool. Guests can taste wines from the property, but also visit nearby wineries, ride horses and visit the town museum.

## Casona Matetic *First*

Located in the Casablanca Valley on the way to Valparaiso, Viña Matetic is a charming winery with extensive grounds and plenty of space to explore on foot, by bike or on horseback. The guesthouse 'La Casona' is a traditional building with 10 rooms, all en-suite with charming decoration. The vineyard is relatively isolated, but there are many on-site activities to keep guests busy.



## Clos Apalta *Deluxe*

Previously known as Casa Lapostolle, Clos Apalta has 4 Casita suites set on the hillside overlooking the vineyards of the Colchagua Valley. The suites are the height of luxury, sophistication and fine cuisine, with no detail overlooked as attested by their membership of Relais et Chateaux. Accommodation includes all meals, several activities, wine tasting in the family's private cellar, as well as other local wineries.

# EASTER ISLAND

This small volcanic island located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, 2,000 miles from Chile's mainland, is one of the most isolated places on Earth. Also known as 'Rapa Nui', it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its Polynesian culture and fascinating archaeology. The gigantic stone heads, called 'Moai' were carved from volcanic rock by the Rapa Nui people over 500 years ago and erected on platforms 'Ahus' facing inland from the ocean. The unique combination of this far flung tropical island with fascinating heritage, idyllic scenery and weather make it a must-see destination for the global traveller.



## 4 days • 3 nights

**Days 1-2** On arrival transfer to your hotel. Rest of day at leisure. The following day visit Vaihu and Akahanga *abus*, Rano Raraku, the quarry where the *moais* were made, and Ahu Tongariki with its 15 restored statues and nearby ancient petroglyphs. Drive to Anakena Beach, watched over by the impressive Ahu Nau Nau statues, where we stop on a white sandy beach for a picnic and a swim in the Pacific Ocean.

**Day 3** Half day excursion to Rano Kau visiting the crater lake and ceremonial village of Orongo, where the birdman culture once chose its king. Afternoon at leisure with time to explore the town of Hanga-roa and the Museum of Sebastian Englert.

**Day 4** Flight back to mainland Chile.

**OPTIONAL** - Stay an extra night to see Ahu Akivi and its seven *moais* lined by the ocean shore and facing inland. We also visit Ana Te Pahu Cave and continue to the quarry of Puna Pau. Afternoon at leisure exploring, walking or unwinding.



## Hanga Roa *First*

On oceanfront close to town, Hanga Roa in a welcoming eco-resort with 75 rooms, handmade local furniture, and charming service. Full board and excursions included.

## Taha Tai *Tourist*

Taha Tai is well located by the ocean and close to the town of Hang Roa. Its 40 comfortable rooms all have air conditioning, there is a pool, gardens and a restaurant service local cuisine.

### PRICES FROM 4 days • 3 nights

EASTER ISLAND	£806
LAKE DISTRICT - PUCÓN	£1,083
WINE REGION	
Clos Apalta	£2,416
Casona Matetic	£1,297
Terra Viña	£514
LAKE DISTRICT - PUERTO VARAS	
Cumbres	£424
Estancia 440	£299

Prices are per person in a Standard Room for double occupancy including accommodation and breakfast, tax, service charge and transfers.

# LAKE DISTRICT

## PUCÓN

Set on the shore of picturesque Lake Villarrica, Pucón is undoubtedly the centre of activity and adventure in the Chilean Lake District. Surrounded by dense forests, volcanoes, rivers, waterfalls and volcanic hot springs, there are excellent hotels and lodges from which to base your exploration. Visitors can trek on the Villarrica volcano, visit local Mapuche people and hike in several national parks and nature reserves, including forests of Monkey Puzzle trees.

### 4 days • 3 nights

**Day 1** Arrival at Temuco airport and transfer to your hotel in Pucón, staying for 3 nights. Afternoon to enjoy the lake views or stroll through the town.

**Day 2** Full day excursion to Huerquehue National Park, 1 hour from Pucón, to hike in the Monkey Puzzle Tree forest. Beautiful lagoons surrounded by mountains are home to abundant bird life. Return to Pucón in the afternoon. (B,L)

**Day 3** Half day excursion to visit the lava caves under Villarrica Volcano, the world's only visible caves within an active volcano. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

**Day 4** Transfer to Temuco airport for departure flight back to Santiago. (B)

### *Antumalal* First

Built in striking Bauhaus style from wood and stone, Antumalal has floor to ceiling windows to make the most of the stunning views. Rooms are warm, cosy and characterful. Located on the shore of the lake and with pleasant gardens, it is outside the town but within walking distance.

### *Casa Establo* Tourist

A traditional wooden building, 5 miles outside Pucón but overlooking the lake, Casa Establo has 10 warm and comfortable rooms decorated with local textiles. There is a café serving light items like soups and sandwiches, a bar, hot tub and pool to relax at the end of the day.



### *Vira Vira* Deluxe



Vira Vira is a modern hacienda with a huge expanse of parkland along the shores of a mountain river running to the lake. The main building contains the restaurant, lounge and the rustic, luxurious suites upstairs, while villas overlook the river, each with private hot tub. The hacienda is decorated with local materials and designs throughout, giving a sense of place.

They operate their own organic farm, growing many of their vegetables and producing their own milk and cheese. Accommodation includes all meals and a variety of exclusive excursions with the lodge's guides, including horse riding and hikes in the forest. Rides over the volcano in the hacienda's helicopter are extra.



## PUERTO VARAS



Located on the shore of Lake Llanquihue, within easy reach of Puerto Montt airport, Puerto Varas has a range of good quality hotels, restaurants, and a family atmosphere. Walk along the lake shore with views of snowcapped Osorno Volcano, visit the Petrohue falls or the remote, little-visited Alerce Andino National Park.

### *Cumbres* First

Built on a small hill with a perfect view over the lake, Cumbres hotel is comfortable and contemporary, with all mod-cons, indoor pool and spa. All 62 rooms have large windows looking out over the lake towards Osorno Volcano. The hotel is within easy walking distance from the centre of town, ideal for exploring or going out for dinner at a local restaurant.

### *Estancia 440* Tourist

The family-run Estancia 440 is a cosy boutique-style guesthouse, close to the centre of Puerto Varas. Set in an original German wooden house built in the 1940s, the hotel has 7 rooms, tastefully decorated with local artwork and modern touches. There is no restaurant but they serve an ample homemade breakfast, and there are plenty of places to dine within walking distance.



## CHILOÉ

Chiloé is a large island just South of Puerto Montt. Cut off from the mainland, it has its own unique character, with colourful houses on stilts along the shore, UNESCO listed wooden churches, and abundant marine birds and mammals. Chiloé can be visited on a daytrip, lodges for overnight stays, and the Skorpis II cruise also visits, see p.90 for details.

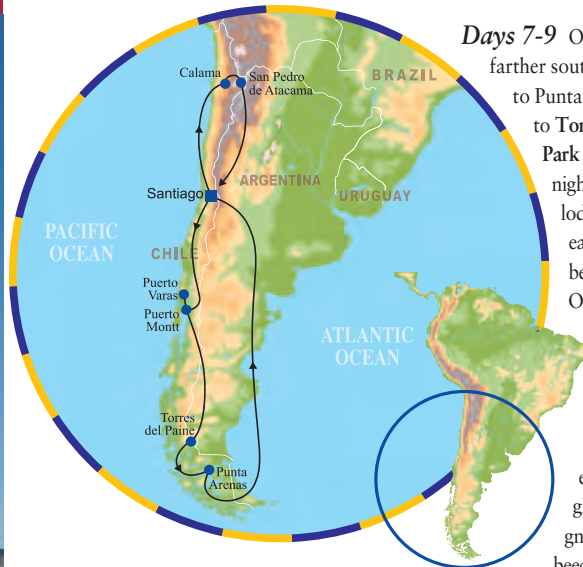
# HIGHLIGHTS OF CHILE



Tatio Geysers, Day 11

Discover the magnificent landscapes that lie within this thin ribbon of land between the Andes and the Pacific. This tour which will lead you through three extremes - the mountainous Atacama desert, silent and timeless; the jade green lakes and mighty volcanoes of the Lake District; and Southern Patagonia, a wild, windswept land of mountains and glaciers framed by the majestic granite peaks of Torres del Paine National Park.

Osorno volcano across the lake from Puerto Varas, Day 5



**Days 7-9** Our journey continues farther south, as we take a flight to Punta Arenas and transfer to Torres del Paine National Park where we stay for 3 nights at a comfortable lodge within the park for ease of access and the best walks and scenery. Our days are spent walking in this awe-inspiring area, where dramatic granite massifs rise from the earth, surrounded by glaciers, lakes and gnarled Magellanic beech trees. The walks

vary from six hour treks, to 1½hr strolls. Whichever you choose, the scenery will be unforgettable. (B)

**Day 10** Transfer to Punta Arenas for your flight to Santiago. Overnight (B)

**Day 11** Flight to Calama and transfer through the driest desert in the world to San Pedro de Atacama. Stroll in the village. Witness the sunset at Pucará de Quitor, the ruins of a 700-year-old Indian fortress, with the Andes mountains stretching north and south as far as the eye can see. (B)

**Day 12** Tour of San Pedro village including the ancient church. There is an Archeological Museum, which houses fascinating examples of indigenous Atacameño artefacts including ceramics, metalwork and textiles. In the afternoon we visit the eerie Valley of the Moon for sunset, when the colours and forms of the naturally sculpted salt mountains are at their most hauntingly beautiful. (B)

**Days 1-4** Depart any day of the week for Santiago, arriving the next morning. Afternoon tour of the city, surrounded by the Andes stretching into the distance. Santiago offers bohemian areas, large craft markets, grand central squares and the Cerro San Cristóbal, a hill which can be reached by funicular railway, for superb panoramic views of the city. (B)

Optional excursions to Valparaíso and Viña del Mar on the coast, the vineyards of Santa Cruz or the surrounding valleys.

**Day 5** Fly to Puerto Montt, capital of the lush Lake District and transfer to Puerto Varas. Afternoon free to explore the city and surroundings at leisure. (B)

**Day 6** A full day excursion to the emerald green waters of Lago Todos Los Santos, visiting Petrohué Falls that flow over the sculpted basalt rock. Continue to Osorno Volcano, with views of the surrounding hills covered in forest, and the glistening deep blue lakes. (B)

## PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL TOUR GUIDELINE PRICES FROM

SERENO Tour	Tourist			First		
	1 Single Traveller	Travelling Together Double	Own Room	1 Single Traveller	Travelling Together Double	Own Room
25Dec-21Jun, 17Aug-12Dec	£6340	£4685	£5637	£7095	£5098	£6279
22Jun-16Aug, 13Dec-24Dec	£6615	£4960	£5912	£7375	£5375	£6556

GUIDELINE TOUR PRICES are all per person, subject to availability, as all services are booked when you pay your deposit. Please refer to our website [veloso.com](http://veloso.com) for current prices and any special offers available. To obtain a Guaranteed Price for your travel dates, please call 020 8762 0616, email [travel@veloso.com](mailto:travel@veloso.com), or contact our appointed travel agents. Prices for Special Events, New Year's Eve, Christmas, Easter on request.

FLIGHTS departing from London and UK Regional Airports, Internal Flights and Taxes, are included. UPGRADE to Business Cabin seat add: £2119 in High Season / £2206 in Low Season

HOTELS used, descriptions and photographs on our website, [veloso.com/sereno](http://veloso.com/sereno)

**TAILOR-MADE SERVICE:** Please enquire for a personalised itinerary to fulfil your individual requirements. We can combine hotels, change route, excursions and we can offer triple rooms, suites and De Luxe Hotels.



Torres del Paine, Days 7-9

**Day 13** A very early morning departure for **Tatio Geysers**. This extraordinary sight is best seen as the first rays of the sun catch the forceful jets and steam that rise from the earth. Stop on the way back to visit a delightful oasis, village of **Chiu Chiu**. (B)

**Days 14-15** Excursion through the timeless space of the desert, to the village of **Toconao**, set on the edge of the **Salar de Atacama**, an immense dry salt lake that stretches into the distance towards a row of snow-capped volcanoes. Return to Santiago in the afternoon for 1 night and fly home arriving on Day 16. (B)

*The Sereno Tour departs every day - 16 days INCLUDING: 13 nights' accommodation and breakfast (B), all flights (2 overnight), transfers, excursions, English-speaking guides, transport and meals as shown. Please see pages 190-193 for further details of what is included.*

### **Optional - Arica & Lauca National Park**

**Days 15-16** Fly to **Arica**, Chile's northernmost city, which enjoys year-round temperatures of 22°C. We visit the city and the Archeological Museum, which houses a fascinating and well-preserved collection of mummies, weavings and pottery. The following day take a scenic drive up to **Lauca National Park**, arriving first at the charming village of **Parinacota**, with its 17th century church, and on to **Lake Chúngrara** (4,600m), set against a stunning backdrop of snow-capped volcanoes, and home to varied and abundant wildlife, including vicuñas, vizcachas and flamingos. (B)

### **Optional - Valparaíso**

**Days 15-17** Valparaíso's picturesque setting, enhanced by the surrounding hills that seem to dive into the ocean, is an ideal

place to unwind and relax by the ocean. Walk along the picturesque promenades and absorb the artistic atmosphere as you breathe the fresh air of the Pacific. (B)

### **Optional - Maipo Canyon**

**Days 15-17** Stay in the Maipo Valley surrounded by Andes mountains, where the air is pure and the views spectacular, enjoy different activities such as horse riding, trekking various trails or bathing in the thermal waters.

### **Optional - Wine Region**

**Days 15-17** Stay at one of our preferred vineyards located in the Casablanca Valley, La Casona at Matetic or the Colchagua Valley & Santa Cruz where famous vineyards such as Viña Casa Silva and Santa Rita are located and learn about the wine production, growing grapes and tasting of Chilean Wines.

## *The Sereno Tour*

### *13 night itinerary*

Santiago - 3 nights

Puerto Varas - 2 nights

Torres del Paine - 3 nights

Santiago - 1 night

San Pedro de Atacama - 3 nights

Santiago - 1 night

### *Optional Extensions :*

Easter Island - 3 or 4 nights

Valparaíso - 3 nights

Wine Region - 3 nights

Arica / Lauca National Park - 2 nights

Maipo Canyon - 3 nights

**web** [veloso.com/sereno](http://veloso.com/sereno)

## MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPES CROSSING THE ANDES

### *Atacama Desert crossing to Salta*

Setting off from San Pedro de Atacama, the road to Argentina passes through evermore otherworldly landscapes, past volcanoes and salt flats, over plateaus into the high Andes. Vivid coloured lagoons, red earth and dry scrub stretch as far as the mountainous horizon, making an incredible full day sightseeing journey to Salta for the adventurous traveller. Border crossing is completed at the frontier, 4,200m above sea level. The road descends the steep and winding road down to the Humahuaca Gorge, with spectacular rock formations on all sides. The journey takes about 10 hours, plus the border crossing time, and can be made by public bus (coach) or private car.

### *High Mountain crossing to Mendoza*

Santiago is the other side of the Andes from the Argentine wine capital Mendoza, and it is a spectacular journey to make by road. Working your way through the foothills past mountains streams, you traverse scrub-covered canyons between increasingly high peaks. Reaching the steep mountainside, the road turns into a series of switchbacks and suddenly gains height, with amazing mountain scenery on all sides. Border crossing formalities are completed at the very top, giving time to stretch your legs and admire the rugged frontier terrain, before continuing down into Argentina. The journey takes about 7 hours and can be made by public bus (coach) or private car.

### *Andean Lakes crossing to Bariloche*

Unique journey between **Puerto Varas** in Chile and **Bariloche** in Argentina. Enjoy a leisurely full day excursion, crossing three picturesque **Andean lakes** in comfortable passenger boats, alternating with short journeys by bus. On a sunny day, the stunning surrounding landscape of forest and snow-capped peaks is reflected in the mirror of the still water of **lakes Nahuel Huapi, Frias and Todos los Santos**. The scenery changes with the seasons from snow in the winter to lush green in the summer. Your luggage is carried for you and you stop at an isolated hotel where you can have lunch and stay overnight (optional) to trek in the mountains and forest.



# WINE REGION, LAKES & VOLCANOS

web [veloso.com/villarrica](http://veloso.com/villarrica)

## Self Drive - The Villarrica Tour 12 night itinerary:

Santiago - 2 nights • Valparaíso - 2 nights

Santa Cruz - 2 nights • Chillán - 1 night

Pucón - 3 nights • Puerto Varas - 2 nights

Optional extensions: *Skorpis II Cruise* (see page 96),

*Torres del Paine* (see page 98-99), *Atacama desert* (see page 94)

**Days 1-3** Depart on an overnight flight to Santiago de Chile. On arrival transfer to your hotel with an afternoon tour of the city's grand squares, European-style central market, and the Cerro San Cristóbal - reached by funicular railway for superb panoramic views of the city. (B)

**Days 4-5** Transfer to collect your self drive vehicle and briefing, maps and itinerary description. You have contact details for all hotels booked along your route. Drive to Valparaíso, a beautiful historic city and UNESCO World Heritage site surrounded by hills and overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Explore on foot the artistic neighbourhoods perched on the hillsides with its winding streets and interconnecting stairs. (B)

**Days 6-7** Drive south to the picturesque town of Santa Cruz in the Colchagua Valley famous for its excellent wines, staying for 2 nights. Explore the surrounding countryside and wineries of "La Ruta del Vino" (The Wine Route). (B)

**Day 8** Continue south along the Andes to Chillán. Overnight at a local hotel. (B)

**Days 9-11** Drive to the beautiful Chilean Lake District and the town of Pucón, staying for 3 nights with spectacular views of Lake Villarrica, surrounded by mountains, forest and waterfalls. Pucón is famous for its pristine scenery with snow-capped volcanoes, crystal clear lakes and rivers, thermal baths and national parks. You can locally arrange numerous activities such as trekking, rafting, mountain biking, horse riding and guided walks. (B)

**Days 12-13** Continue south to Puerto Varas located on Lake Llanquihue, near Petrohué Falls and Lago Todos Los Santos, whose deep, clear, emerald green waters are crowned by the perfectly conical snow-capped peak of Osorno volcano. Two days to explore the area at your own pace, with walks and boat trips. Nearby is Chiloé, with its unique blend of isolated island culture, small fishing communities, and incredible wooden UNESCO-listed churches. (B)

A magnificent journey through stunning mountain scenery of majestic volcanoes, lakes and picturesque villages, for you to explore, make stops and detours and enjoy famous Chilean wines, relaxing hot springs and walking in the countryside. All hotels and your car are provided together with local support, assistance and maps with a suggested route and places of interest.

**Day 14** Drive to Puerto Montt airport, where you return the car and fly to Santiago, connecting with the overnight flight home, arriving on Day 15. (B)

*The Villarrica Tour* departs every day - 15 days including 12 nights' accommodation and breakfast (B), all flights (2 overnight), transfer and briefing on arrival, car hire as described, maps, local assistance and drop-off charges.

### Extension to ARGENTINA:

**Days 12-15** Drive from Pucón across the Argentinean border to San Martín de los Andes for 1 night and on to Bariloche for 3 nights. **Day 16 - 17** Cross the Lake District from Bariloche to Osorno and continue to Puerto Varas. **Day 18** Return overnight flight home, arriving Day 19. Please take note that the above itinerary is a suggestion that can be extended or reduced according to your preference.



Mountain road



Mountain lake in the summer



Petrohué falls near Puerto Varas



Winery outside Santa Cruz

### PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL TOUR GUIDELINE PRICES FROM

2 Sharing Room, Self Drive

Villarrica Tour	Tourist	First
1 Jan-30 Jun, 6Sep-17Dec	£2952	£3219
1 Jul-5 Sep, 18Dec-31Dec	£3227	£3484

Self drive prices are per person including self-drive vehicle Chevrolet Corsa 1.6 or similar with air-conditioning and unlimited mileage, accommodation at first class hotels, breakfast, assistance from our local representatives.

FLIGHTS ARE INCLUDED departing from London and UK Regional Airports, Internal Flights and Taxes. UPGRADE to Business Cabin seat add: £2119 in High Season / £2206 in Low Season

GUIDELINE TOUR PRICES are all per person, subject to availability, as all services are booked when you pay your deposit. Please refer to our website [veloso.com](http://veloso.com) for current prices and any special offers available. To obtain a Guaranteed Price for your travel dates, please call 020 8762 0616, email [travel@veloso.com](mailto:travel@veloso.com), or contact our appointed travel agents. Prices for Special Events, New Year's Eve, Christmas, Easter on request.

TAILOR-MADE SERVICE: We can prepare a personalised itinerary to fulfil your requirements.





# ATACAMA DESERT EXPEDITIONS

CHILE



The Atacama mountain desert in the arid northern region of Chile is an extreme and surreal desert landscape of volcanoes, geysers and high altitude mineral lakes of deep blue, yellow and green colours. The clear night sky is ideal for star gazing in a natural planetarium. The desert holds a wide variety of wildlife such as vicuñas, flamingoes, Darwin's Rhea. The town of San Pedro de Atacama is an oasis of green amid the void.

**4 days • 3 nights**  
*Choice of hotels shown below*

**Day 1** Arrive at Calama Airport and transfer to San Pedro de Atacama, with stunning views of the mountains en route. Afternoon visit to Moon Valley, an otherworldly experience walking through canyons and over dunes, and watching the sunset over the surreal landscape. (B)

**Day 2** In the morning visit the town of San Pedro and its local 17th century church complete with cactus

roof, as well as the ruins of Pucara de Quitor, the oldest human settlement in the area. Depart for Toconao, a town built of white volcanic stone. Continue to the Salar de Atacama, the vast salt lake and remains of an ancient sea, now home to graceful flamingos. (B,L)

**Days 3-4** A very early start to catch the high altitude Tatio Geysers at their best and see a spectacular display of searing steam and water shooting high into the air at dawn. There is also a chance for a warming dip in the mineral hot springs. Next day transfer to Calama airport. (B)



Natural Planetarium - The sky at night excursion

## Continue your expedition:

Stay another night in San Pedro to explore more of the desert on guided excursions, or journey across the border into Bolivia to visit the magnificent Uyuni Salt Flats. See *The Laguna Tour*, p.28, for details.



## Don Tomas *Tourist*

A simple hotel located on the outskirts of the town of San Pedro, La Casa de Don Tomas is built in the desert style to blend with its environment, and is an ideal base from which to explore the desert. The rooms are clean, comfortable and spacious, all with modern furnishings and private facilities. There is a restaurant serving Chilean and International cuisine, a patio for relaxing outdoors and a swimming pool with views of the surrounding mountains and volcanoes.



## Altiplanico *First*

Located in spacious grounds on the edge of San Pedro, the Altiplanico Hotel was built using local materials of adobe, stone and straw, with natural colours to enhance its local character. The 29 rooms are arranged in 3 semicircles with cultivated land in between, and each has a terrace facing the Andes and is decorated in traditional Atacameño style with private bathroom - some also have an outdoor shower. There is a swimming pool, restaurant and a fire pit where guests can gather in the evening.



## Terrantai *First*

Terrantai is hidden in the heart of San Pedro, next to an ancient church, in the guise of a traditional Atacama house. Built from local stone, adobe and wood, the hotel has a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with a large internal patio and swimming pool. There are 21 comfortable rooms all with private facilities, and a pleasant outdoor restaurant which captures the cool breeze. Due to its location, the local restaurant and bars are only a short walk away.



## PRICES FROM 4 days • 3 nights

ATACAMA EXPEDITIONS	
Terrantai	£1,022
Altiplanico	£846
Don Tomas	£809
ATACAMA LODGES	
Awasi	£2,316
Explora	£2,210
Alto Atacama	£1,879
Tierra Atacama	£1,888

Prices per person including shared transport to/from Calama airport, shared excursions with English-speaking guide, accommodation. Lodges are full board, hotels in San Pedro are bed and breakfast. \*Awasi offers fully private services throughout.





## ATACAMA LODGES

### *Explora*

*First Superior*

Covering an area of 17 hectares outside the town of San Pedro, Explora is a complex of gardens and walkways with modern architecture, comfortable accommodation and facilities. Newly renovated in 2016, the lodge has its own stables offering a variety of horse riding excursions, as well as its own covered observatory for astronomy. Explora's speciality is its 'Explorations', more than 40 activities ranging from sightseeing to more adventurous biking and trekking.



### *Tierra Atacama*

*First*

Tierra Atacama Hotel & Spa is located on the outskirts of San Pedro. Designed in the modern style with large windows, the lodge has excellent facilities, with spacious and well equipped rooms, each with views of the Licancabur volcano. Guests can combine active enjoyment of the desert with tranquility and the spa: there is a choice of daily guided hikes and sightseeing excursions, as well as biking or horse riding, all in small groups. There is a pool, restaurant, outdoor fire pits, and full spa.



### *Awasi*

*Deluxe Boutique*



A small luxury hotel in the style of a local house made from adobe, stone, wood and thatched roofs, Awasi's central concept is All-Inclusive Tailor Made. All transfers and excursions are by 4x4 vehicle with a private guide, designed each day to your interests and preferences. Awasi is a member of **Relais et Chateaux**, promising world class hospitality and dining throughout your stay. There are 8 spacious suites, a pool with comfortable deck chairs to relax during the day, and at sundown a fire is lit for a cosy and intimate atmosphere.



### *Alto Atacama*

*First Superior*

Alto Atacama offers high quality accommodation in the atmospheric setting of a desert village. Located 3km outside the town of San Pedro, the lodge is a peaceful place to relax or enjoy the many excursions with expert guides, including sightseeing, biking and walking. The rooms and suites are spacious, comfortable and decorated with local crafts. The cuisine is excellent, and there is an award-winning spa along with 6 swimming pools and a private open-air observatory for guided star-gazing.



# PATAGONIA CRUISES



## FJORDS, HOT SPRINGS & GLACIERS

**web** [veloso.com/skorpios](http://veloso.com/skorpios)

A cruise through stunning scenery of fjords and lush mountains, passing beautifully sculpted icebergs, to the awe-inspiring San Rafael Glacier.

### *Skorpios II* 6 days • 5 nights

First Class Ship - 55 Cabins - Maximum 130 passengers

#### THE CHONOS ROUTE

Departs Saturdays : Puerto Montt - San Rafael Lagoon - Chiloé Island - Puerto Montt

**Days 1-2** Depart from Puerto Montt and sail through the scenic Llanquihue Archipelago. Sail through the Moraleda Channel to visit the charming fishing village of Puerto Aguirre. Continue to Ferronave and Pilcomayo Channels to anchor near San Rafael Glacier. (B,L,D)

**Day 3** Sail up the Iceberg Channel to view the mighty San Rafael Glacier. Full day to admire this impressive sight, it is possible to transfer to a smaller boat to get a closer view. Depart early evening for the beautiful Quintralco Fjord. (B,L,D)

**Days 4-6** Anchor at Quintralco and spend the day relaxing in the outdoor and

indoor thermal baths. Depending on the weather conditions, a boat trip can be made further up the fjord. Continue overnight to Melinka Island, in the Chonos Archipelago, once a remote hideaway for ruthless pirates.

Continue across the Gulf of Corcovado and skirt the eastern shores of Chiloé Island to anchor at Castro and visit the island to see its wooden houses on stilts and handicraft market. Late evening departure to Puerto Montt through the Straits of Castro and Calbuco Channel. Arrive in Puerto Montt Thursday in the early morning, breakfast and disembark. (B,L,D)

### *Skorpios III* 4 days • 3 nights

Deluxe Ship - 45 Cabins - Maximum 110 passengers

#### THE KAWESKAR ROUTE

Departs Tuesdays or Fridays from Puerto Natales back to Puerto Natales

**Day 1** Arrival at Punta Arenas and transfer to Puerto Natales to board the ship and start sailing along the myriad of Patagonias channels. (D)

**Day 2** Arrival and view the Amalia Glacier, continue to El Brujo Glacier. Weather permitting, disembark on a rock for a close view of the glacier. During lunch, sail to Calvo Fjord and

afternoon excursion on a special motor boat, to view the glaciers. Set sail to Montanas Fjord. (B,L,D)

**Day 3** Visit Montanas Fjord where five glaciers come down from Sarmiento Mountain to the sea. Soft trek to Bernal Glacier. Visit the Alsina and Paredes Glaciers and set sail along Kirke Narrowness crossing.



Excursions ashore on the Skorpios cruise



Cabin on the Skorpios

Captain's Farewell dinner. Arrive in Puerto Natales at night. (B,L,D)

**Day 4** Disembark and transfer back to Punta Arenas airport. (B)

Combine the Skorpios cruise with a stay at Torres del Paine (pages 98-99) for walking, trekking and sightseeing, before or after this exciting cruise.



### PRICES FROM

SEASON	LOW	HIGH
<b>SKORPIOS II</b>		
Cabin Atenas	£1,728	£2,031
Cabin Acropolis	£1,808	£2,111
Cabin Parthenon	£1,848	£2,151
<b>SKORPIOS III</b>		
Cabin Atenas	£1,516	£1,748
Cabin Acropolis	£1,616	£1,848
Cabin Parthenon	£1,704	£1,936

All prices are per person including transfers to/from Puerto Montt or Punta Arenas airport, cabin of your choice, full board (B,L,D), open bar and guided excursions. All Inclusive.

Skorpios II - Friday night aboard before departure costs £148 per person including dinner.

Skorpios III - Additional night at Indigo Hotel, Puerto Natales, before departure costs £320 per person including dinner, breakfast and full day excursion to Torres del Paine National Park.

#### SEASONS:

**High** - January to February  
**Low** - March to December

# DESERTS & GLACIERS



The Tatío Geysers in Atacama

Discover contrasting landscapes with the Atacama desert, volcanic Hot Springs and Salt Flats in arid northern Chile, followed by the icy fjords and Glaciers of Tierra del Fuego. Enjoy the wonderful facilities of your desert lodge, before setting sail on a comfortable cruise ship to experience the remotest reaches of Southern Patagonia.



Cruising the Chilean Fjords

## Skorpios II Cruise • Fjords & San Rafael Glacier – Days 9–15

**Days 1-3** Depart Thursday on Iberia or LAN Airlines flight via Madrid to Santiago, arriving the following morning. Next day we have a scenic tour of Santiago surrounded by mountains. (B)

### Atacama Desert

**Days 4-6** Flight to Calama, high up in the Andean mountains and transfer to San Pedro de Atacama for three nights staying at Alto Atacama, a modern desert architecture lodge, including all meals and daily excursions (see page 94-95). Guided private hotel excursions include: visit to Toconao and the Atacama Salt Flats, dawn at the Tatío Geysers, walking in the Valley of the Moon, sunset in the desert, exploring the ruins of Pucará de Quitor and visiting Chiu-Chiu. (B,L,D)

**Days 7-8** Afternoon transfer to Calama, fly to Santiago and transfer to Valparaíso, staying for 2 nights. Next day walking tour of this historic city, including the colourful hillside neighbourhoods, art galleries, cafés, and the home of poet Pablo Neruda. (B)

### AZUL TOUR - Individual Tour

NO OF TRAVELLERS	Departures every Thursday, September to April	
	1 SINGLE	2 SHARING
SEASONS		
Low (5Mar-19Dec)	£9381	£6783
High (20Dec-4Mar;)	£6782	£7058

Prices shown are guideline prices from, per person including 17 days, 14 nights accommodation, 2 overnight flights in economy from London Heathrow and UK Regional Airports, plus all internal flights, meals as shown on the itinerary and all inclusive on the cruise, transfers and guided excursions as described. BUSINESS Cabin upgrade £2136. Premium Economy upgrade £788. Does not operate May to August.

**Day 9** Transfer to Santiago, fly to Puerto Montt, transfer to the pier, board the Skorpios II ship (Shown on facing page 96), staying your first night at the port. (B,D)

**Days 10-14** Morning tour to the lake region visiting Puerto Varas and Petrohue waterfalls. Afternoon start of your 5 night cruise on the Chonos Route through the Chilean Fjords to Laguna San Rafael Glacier as described on page 96. (B,L,D)

**Days 15-16** Disembark in Puerto Montt. Transfer to the airport and fly to Santiago, staying for 1 night. Morning free before being taken to the airport for your overnight flight home, arriving Day 17. (B)

It is possible to cruise on Skorpios III, Kaweskar Route (p.96). Please enquire.

## The Azul Tour

### 14 night itinerary

Santiago - 2 nights

San Pedro de Atacama - 3 nights

Valparaíso - 2 nights

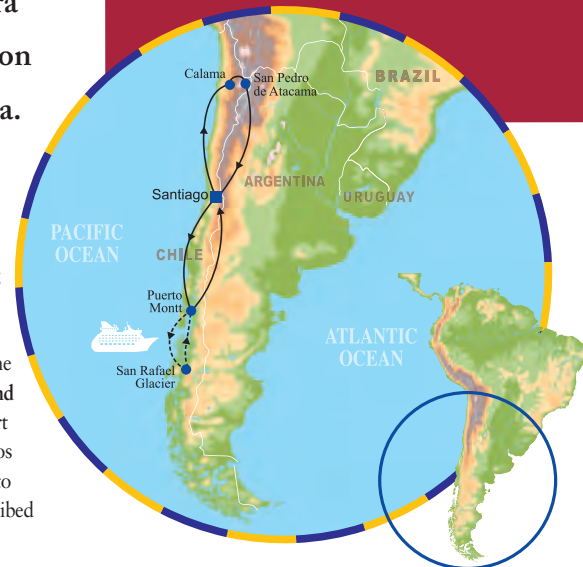
Skorpios II Puerto Montt - 1 night

Skorpios II Cruise - 5 nights

(Alternatively Skorpios III - 3 nights)

Santiago - 1 night

web [veloso.com/azul](http://veloso.com/azul)



**The Azul Tour** departs on Thursdays from September to April - 17 days INCLUDING: 14 nights accommodation and breakfast (B), all flights (2 overnight), transfers, excursions, English-speaking guides, transport and meals (B,L,D) as shown. Please see pages 190-193 for further details of what is included.



# TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

web [veloso.com/torres](http://veloso.com/torres)

Torres del Paine National Park encompasses an area of stunning mountain scenery where thick forest vies with barren pampa, turquoise lakes are decorated with glaciers and sculpted icebergs, and the magnificent granite pillars of the Torres soar skywards. A network of marked trails makes it easy to hike this remote area for fabulous views and unforgettable sightings of an array of wildlife that includes condors.

## TOWERS 'W' TREK

6 days • 5 nights

The W-shaped route along Ascension Valley, Valle del Frances and Grey Glacier, takes in the most beautiful sights of the national park, but is suitable only for fit and experienced trekkers (of any age) who can walk for between 6 and 9 hours per day over four consecutive days with two 1 hour uphill stretches. The itinerary includes accommodation in 4 mountain refuges: Refugio Central next to Hosteria Las Torres offers a proper bed for the first and last night, then one night at Refugio Chileno, Los Cuernos and Paine Grande, all with wholesome meals, shared rooms with 6 to 8 bunks, communal showers (hot water) and toilets. This trek is self-guided but once a month in season there is a group guided departure.



Los Cuernos, Ascension Valley Trek, Torres del Paine National Park

## TORRES DEL PAINE EXPEDITION

4 days • 3 nights or 5 days • 4 nights

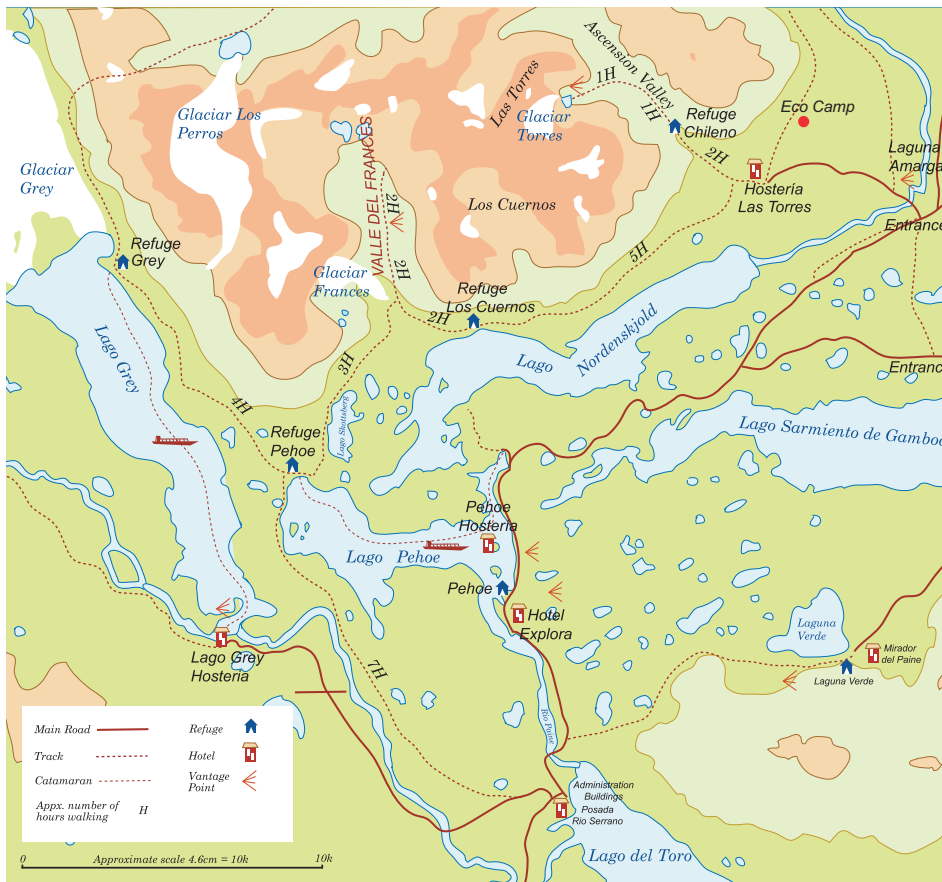
**Day 1** You will be met at the airport in Punta Arenas and drive north across the pampa to Puerto Natales. You have a break and a driver who will take you to Torres del Paine National Park staying for three or four nights at LAGO GREY. There are three main areas to explore: Ascension Valley, Pehoe/French Valley and Grey Lake/Glacier.  
**Days 2-4** You have either two or three full days to explore the National Park. Optional activities such as full day excursions, trekking, sightseeing in the park, and the cruise to see the Grey Glacier. Please refer to the map below for duration, route and gradient of the walks.  
**Day 5** Return transport to Punta Arenas for your onward journey.



Trekking Torres del Paine National Park



Trekking at Lago Grey



## Lago Grey Tourist Superior

Looking out across the lake, this lodge was designed to blend in with the surrounding forest of lenga trees. All rooms have private facilities and central heating. The restaurant and bar have one side all in glass with magnificent views of the mountains and the lake. Guided excursions throughout the park are available.



View from Hotel Lago Grey

### PRICES FROM

TOWERS 'W' INDEPENDENT TREK	£1116
TORRES DEL PAINE EXPEDITION • 3 nights	£958
TORRES DEL PAINE LODGES	4 days • 3 nights
Awasi	£3,174
Explora	£3,126
Patagonia Camp	£2,024
Las Torres	£1,921

Prices shown per person sharing a Standard room for Double Occupancy including shared transfers to/from Punta Arenas, accommodation, breakfast and all meals (full board) and daily guided excursions. 'W' TREK & EXPEDITION only include transfers to/from Punta Arenas and accommodation as described, so you can be independent.



Lake Peboe & Torres del Paine

*Additional Lodges: Tierra Patagonia, Eco-Camp Patagonia, Rio Serrano. Hotels in Puerto Natales: Remota Lodge, The Singular, Altiplanico Sur, Indigo*



## Awasi



Deluxe

Awasi Patagonia is located in a private reserve just outside Torres del Paine national park, with impressive views of the Torres and Lake Sarmiento. Its 12 luxury villas are constructed from local materials, each with a fireplace and large windows which capture the best views of the park. You are assigned a private guide and 4x4 vehicle so that excursions can be taken inside the park or around the private reserve, whatever your preference for timing and duration.

## Patagonia Camp

First

Located at the shores of Lago el Toro, this camp has 20 luxury yurts specially designed to resist the Patagonian wind, rain and snow. Each yurt has a private bathroom and terrace and is equipped with kingsize beds and heating. You can relax in the lounge, enjoy dinner prepared by the chef or take part in a typical Patagonian barbecue. There are expert bilingual staff for excursions should you require, and accommodation is on a full board basis, all meals and drinks included.

## Las Torres

First

This former estancia is now a comfortable hotel in a perfect location for the strenuous but awe-inspiring hike to the base of the Torres. The hotel has its own guides and excursions for a number of trails of varying degrees of difficulty, including horseriding. There is a basic 'refugio' in the original house with shared rooms and facilities. The main Las Torres hotel has comfortable warm and modern bedrooms with private facilities, a good restaurant for wholesome meals and a living room with open fire.

## Explora

Deluxe

Explora is located in the centre of the Park, and has modern decoration with large windows to view the superb landscape facing the lake and the Paine Massif. It has 49 comfortable rooms, all in wood, fully equipped with a bath but no TV. It has a heated indoor swimming pool, sauna and open air jacuzzis and horse riding. Excursions and airport transfers are included and provided in a group with their own specialist guides and drivers.

# PATAGONIA EXPEDITION CRUISES

web [veloso.com/australis](http://veloso.com/australis)

Cruise through the icy waters and stunning fjords of Tierra del Fuego, via the Straits of Magellan and the Beagle Channel. Admire snowcapped peaks, glaciers and Patagonian forest, and visit the most inaccessible reaches of South America.

## PUNTA ARENAS - USHUAIA

4 nights / 5 days



**Day 1** Board the ship in the afternoon for a cocktail reception with the captain, and depart in the evening for Tierra del Fuego.

**Day 2** In the morning arrive at Ainsworth Bay where we go ashore to spot birdlife and hike to a beaver habitat deep in the forest. Later we visit Tucker Islet's colonies of Magellanic Penguins and King Cormorants.

**Day 3** Sail through the Beagle Channel to Pia Glacier. Morning ashore with optional hikes through the forest to a vantage point with a spectacular panoramic view of the entire glacier. Later in the

Excursion ashore on Wulaia Bay, Navarino Island, with the M/V Australis waiting in the distance



Contemplating the awe-inspiring Pia Glacier

Cape Horn on a rare calm and sunny day



afternoon we continue on the majestic "Glacier Alley". Sip a drink on the top decks as we sail pass five unique glaciers.

**Day 4** Visit Cape Horn National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. To visit this mythical island known as the "End of the Earth" is a rare privilege. Later, we reach Navarino Island and go ashore at Wulaia Bay, where Charles Darwin and Captain Fitzroy reached local tribes in 1830s. Choice of three hikes through Magellanic forest for spectacular scenery and views of the bays.

**Day 5** Arrival in Ushuaia in the morning.

## USHUAIA - PUNTA ARENAS

4 nights / 5 days



**Day 1** Board the ship in the afternoon for a cocktail reception with the captain, before the evening departure for Tierra del Fuego.

**Day 2** In the morning arrive at Cape Horn National Park, where we land (weather and sea permitting). In the afternoon we go ashore at Wulaia Bay. There are three hikes from easy to hard.

**Day 3** Sail through the Beagle Channel to reach Pia Glacier, where we go ashore. There is a choice of hikes: easy along the shore or steep, to a stunning viewpoint. Later we sail long "Glacier Alley", sipping a drink on deck and viewing five glaciers, one of which is the Francia Glacier stretching across the hill top and with a torrent of water cascading down to the fjord. One of only a few glaciers still gaining mass.

**Day 4** This morning we enter Agostini Sound, and take an easy walk around a lagoon formed by Aguila Glacier. Later we approach Condor Glacier on zodiacs, and hope to see some majestic Andean Condors.

**Day 5** Visit Magdalena Island at dawn (weather permitting) to see a colony of Penguins. Disembark at Punta Arenas.



Getting close to an iceberg

### PRICES FROM

SEASON	LOW	HIGH
PUNTA ARENAS - USHUAIA		
USHUAIA - PUNTA ARENAS		
Cabin type B	£1,328	£2,148
Cabin type A	£1,773	£2,875
Cabin type AA	£1,858	£3,052

All prices are per person including transfers to/from Ushuaia or Punta Arenas airport, cabin of your choice, full board (B,L,D), open bar and guided excursions. All Inclusive.

SEASONS:  
**High** - January to February  
**Low** - March to December

Glaciers in Tierra del Fuego



# TIERRA DEL FUEGO - USHUAIA



## *Los Naranjos* Tourist

Located in central Ushuaia, Los Naranjos offers comfortable rooms with panoramic views of the surrounding Andean mountain range, the city or the Beagle Channel. All rooms have private facilities, free WiFi, and safe deposit box. The restaurant serves traditional Andean food as well as international dishes.

## *Los Cauquenes* Deluxe

Situated on the edge of the Beagle Channel, Los Cauquenes Resort & Spa offers sophisticated, comfortable rooms with wonderful views. There is a gourmet restaurant and spa, and the hotel offers a range of excursions with its own guides to explore the surrounding landscape, including cruises on its own boat.

Located at the Southern end of South America, Ushuaia is a small port town perched on the edge of the Beagle Channel, the departure point for expedition cruises into the icy waters of Tierra del Fuego and the Antarctic Peninsula. The town is surrounded by National Parks for excellent walking, wildlife watching and a ride on the Southern Fugian Railway.



PRICES FROM 4 days • 3 nights

TIERRA DEL FUEGO - USHUAIA

Los Cauquenes	£389
Los Naranjos	£283

Prices are per person in a Standard Room for double occupancy including accommodation and breakfast, tax, service charge and transfers.

# PATAGONIA CRUISE SHIPS

Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, walks ashore and stunning views along the myriad of remote islands and channels of Tierra del Fuego onboard the M/V Stella Australis or M/V Ventus Australis. Sister ships with large panoramic top decks, lounges and accommodation in comfortable cabins with picture windows and heating. Cruises include daily excursions ashore with naturalist guides, for treks on the islands and wildlife watching.

## *Stella & Ventus Australis* First Class Expedition Ships

Especially designed and built to navigate the fjords and channels of Tierra del Fuego, Stella Australis and Ventus Australis are ideally suited to explore this magnificent region. They share the same layout and deckplan; both have stern platforms to easily board the zodiacs for the excursions on the islands. Each has capacity for a maximum 200 passengers in 100 comfortable cabins, all with central heating, private facilities and picture windows. The majority of the cabins

are the same size - the difference in the grades is the deck number. On decks 3 and 4 there are several 'Superior' cabins which are a little more spacious. There are 3 lounges, all with comfortable seating and large windows to enjoy the views. The cruises include all meals and all drinks, and daily guided excursions ashore by zodiac. There are activities for all levels, with some challenging hikes, and easier options for those who want to take it easy.



Cabin on the Australis



Lounge on upper deck on the Australis

