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BEST OF CHILEAN PATAGONIA: FROM TORRES DEL PAINE TO CAPE HORN (NG EXPLORER)

Optimize your Chilean Patagonia experience with a land and sea expedition. Spend three days at the fine Hotel Rio Serrano to savor the grandeur of Torres del Paines sunrises and sunsets, its iconic landscapes, and profusion of wildlife. Then explore the fjords, glaciers, and panoramic vistas of Patagonias coast and waterways that are only accessible by expedition ship. Venturing out on Zodiac forays, kayaking pristine fjords, or hiking virgin trails, you'll breathe the rarified air of a near-mythic region. Enjoy special access to South American fur seals and Magellanic penguins. Discover the vast parklands of Yendegaia and Karukinka. And check viewing legendary Cape Horn on your life list, as well. Explore Torres del Paine over three days With breathtaking views of saw-toothed mountains and a vast, azure lake, our beautiful hotel is a superb base for daily explorations of inland Chilean Patagonia. Explore this rugged, beautiful landscape that lies between the imposing Andes and vast Patagonia steppe. Search for land mammals including guanaco and Patagonian fox, and over 100 species of birds including the Andean condor, rhea, Chilean flamingo, black-chested buzzard eagle, and many more. Go by expedition ship to discover remote, wild regions Venture into the winding waterways of Patagonia that have gone largely unexplored: the domain of only those lucky enough to have access to an expedition ship. Sail into narrow fjords and disembark to hike to the terminus of a glacier or photograph strange green lakes or vast rock-and-ice landscapes. Discover seldom-visited Isla de los Estados off Argentina By special permission, National Geographic Explorer will call at Isla de los Estados, a wild island largely untouched by humans in decades, it has only a naval outpost with four

guardians. Walk its wild beech forests, look for penguins, see the 1884 San Juan de Salvamento "lighthouse at the end of the world," which inspired Jules Verne's novel by the same name, plus explore the ruins of a penal colony. And, conditions permitting, explore a very rarely seen archeological site where native people lived 1,500 years ago. Active exploration: Hike, kayak & Zodiac cruise You'll get out on adventures often in Patagonia, sometimes twice a day. Explore the towering fjords by Zodiac and kayak; hike to the terminus of massive glaciers; walk the spongy, vegetation-covered ground surrounded by the immensity of a wild pristine landscape. Because Explorer has a fleet of both Zodiacs and kayaks, the entire expedition community can embark at once on forays, with no waiting around for returning parties. You'll have a choice of activities each day, and the option to join any naturalist whose interests mirror yours. Your choices also include opting to enjoy the view from the all-glass observation lounge, the library, or the chart room. To visit the fitness center with its panoramic windows, or ease into the sauna, or have a massage in the wellness center. Take advantage of superb photo ops You'll have a National Geographic photographer as your traveling companion, to inspire you and provide tips in the field. And the services of a National Geographic certified photo instructor, as well to help you turn your point-and-shoot camera into an aim & create. You'll find no end of subjects, and the help you need to return home with your best photos ever. Travel in excellent company Explore Torres del Paine under the expert guidance of veteran naturalists relying on their expertise to maximize wildlife sightings. And aboard National Geographic Explorer, go with



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expedition leader, an assistant expedition leader, eight veteran naturalists, a National Geographic photographer plus a National Geographic certified photo instructor, an undersea specialist, a Global Perspectives guest speaker, a wellness specialist and a video chronicler. Their knowledge and passion for Patagonia is the key to your once-in-a-lifetime



experience.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Santiago, Chile

Arrive in Santiago, Chile and check in to the centrally located Grand Hyatt Hotel, and have the morning to relax. 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 dot the city. (L)

DAY 2: Punta Arena/Puerto Natales

Today we fly from Santiago to Punta Arenas, Chiles southern gateway to Patagonia, drive to the outpost of Puerto Natales and check in to our fine hotel, the Remota located on Ultima Esperanza (Last Hope) Sound. The sound got its name when 16th-century explorers tried and failed to find a route to the Pacific here. This afternoon, we will enjoy a short exploration of the town, including a visit to the small but excellent Municipal Historical Museum, with exhibits on the regions Native Americans and on its settler past. We have dinner at our hotel. (B,L,D)

DAY 3-5: Torres del Paine National Park

We drive to Torres del Paine National Park, stopping at Milodon Cave, where the remains of an extinct giant sloth were discovered. Illuminating displays show the history of human habitation and wildlife of the region. We continue to monumental Torres del Paine, a UNESCO Biosphere reserve and a place of superlatives. The landscape is big, wide and sprawling, with razor-backed ridges, Andean condors guanacos, foxes and rheas. Regardless of where you are, the Paine massif draws your eye with its jagged peaks, including the famous Horns and the three towers for which the park is named. These granite mountains are topped with a thick layer of dark slate. Chileans themselves dream of visiting this magnificent park, and it holds a special place in their hearts as a symbol of wildness. During our days here, well discover one of the most spectacular and wildlife-rich areas in the Americas, covering 450,000 acres of glaciers, forests and grasslands, rivers and colorful lakes and lagoons. Youll be able to choose among a variety of excursions each day, ranging from a challenging hike to the base of the



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towers, to a shorter walk among guanaco herds to the edge of a lake, to a scenic drive to a waterfall and the Blue Lagoon, with views of the towers. Or ride horseback if you wish, in this most inspiring of landscapes. You'll leave here with the feeling you've really experienced an adventure. Our accommodations are at Hotel Rio Serrano. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: Torres del Paine National Park/ Puerto Natales/Embark

We have a final morning to explore Torres del Paine. We then drive to Puerto Natales, where we embark National Geographic Explorer. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: Kirke Narrows & Exploring the Chilean Fjords

Be on deck to look for condors and other wildlife on our way out of Puerto Natales, as our ship transits the narrow sliver of water known as the Kirke Narrows—always a challenge to navigate because of the powerful currents that flow through its 650-foot wide pinch point. Today and during the following days you will be treated to the spectacular features of an active glaciated landscape with hanging valleys and tributary glaciers. This region was navigated by Ferdinand Magellan's expedition and it took most of November 1520 for his ships to find a way through the maze of channels that lie between the continental mainland and Tierra del Fuego to the south. Among our many possibilities are exploring Estero las Montañas, with a chance to go for an adventurous walk to a lake through beautiful muskeg and forest, with cypress trees coated with many species of lichens; and Bahía Ainsworth in Seno Almirantazgo, where we may go out by Zodiac and kayak and look for elephant seals. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: Tierra del Fuego, Chile: Karukinka Natural Park

Tierra del Fuego is one of Patagonia's crown jewels. We visit its newest and largest protected area: Karukinka Natural Park.

Established in 2004 through a gift from Goldman Sachs, Karukinka is one of the largest donations ever made for conservation. We're thrilled to have special permission from the Wildlife Conservation Society to visit this private reserve, which spans 1,160 square miles and harbors endangered culpeo fox, Andean condors, albatross, grebes, petrels, fulmars, shearwaters and many other kinds of wildlife. We may explore Jackson Bay, backed by a skyline of rugged mountains and look for wildlife including black-browed albatross that nest on one of the nearby small islands. We may walk a trail to a lovely waterfall and look for elephant seals resting on not only the beach but also high in the grass meadows and even in the small river draining the valley inland. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: The Chilean Fjords, Beagle Channel & Yendegai

We'll explore more stunning wilderness as we see the fjords and glaciers of the region by Zodiac, kayak and on foot. A vast area of soaring, snowcapped mountains, gigantic glaciers, thousands of verdant islands, serene lakes, and waterfalls—the archipelago is scarcely touched by man. Take Zodiacs out to explore these protected waters and rugged shores, the blue and white of ice contrasting with greens of the forest highlighted by splashes of late-season flowering plants. Look for the Andean condors, albatrosses, grebes, petrels, fulmars, shearwaters and many other birds that inhabit this otherworldly realm. Then we sail the Beagle Channel to Yendegai, a stunning wilderness that covers 95,000 acres on Tierra del Fuego. This newly established national park was formerly a private reserve. It has beech forests, mountains and wild rivers. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: Cape Horn

Today we visit Cape Horn, near the southernmost tip of the South American continent, named in 1616 for the Dutch town of



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Horn. These waters are famously difficult to navigate, and over the centuries have been the graveyard of many ships-which before the opening of the Panama Canal had to round the Cape to sail between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Of course, we'll use our modern equipment to explore safely. Weather permitting, we'll take our Zodiacs ashore and walk to the top of the hill for panoramic views and to see the memorial placed there in 1992, showing an albatross in silhouette. (B,L,D)

DAY 11-13: Isla de Los Estados (Staten Island), Argentina

We have been given special permission to visit extraordinary Staten Island, and National Geographic Explorer will be one of the only expedition ships ever allowed here. Its a place of superlatives, barely touched in recent decades and visited primarily by a few scientists and those who man the tiny naval observatory. The island was named by Dutch explorers in 1615. Its mountainous, forested landscapes and rugged fjords are beautiful, and well find a great deal of interest here. Our exact schedule will remain flexible to take best advantage of conditions. Well see colonies of southern rockhopper and Magellanic penguins, many other water birds, and large assemblages of fur seals and sea lions. Well also look for otters on our landings ashore, and well see the 1884 San Juan de Salvamento lighthouse at the end of the world, which inspired Jules Vernes novel by the same name, along with the ruins of a penal colony, and perhaps an archaeological site occupied 1,500 years ago by Native Americans. There will be chances to walk in the southern beech forests. These days are bound to stand out as a unique chance to explore a very remote place. (B,L,D)

DAY 14: Ushuaia/Disembark/Buenos Aires

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

Please Note:

All day-by-day breakdowns are a sampling of the places we intend to visit, conditions permitting.



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YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

YOUR SHIP:	National Geographic Explorer
VESSEL TYPE:	Luxury Expedition
LENGTH:	108 meters
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	148 (single & twin cabins)
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	1982 / 2008

Chronicler, Internet Cafe and laundry. Wellness : The vessel is staffed by two Wellness Specialists and features a glass enclosed Fitness Center, outdoor stretching area, two LEXspa treatment rooms

National Geographic Explorer is a state-of-the-art expedition ship. It is a fully stabilized, ice-class vessel, enabling it to navigate polar passages while providing exceptional comfort. It carries kayaks and a fleet of Zodiac landing craft. An Undersea Specialist operates a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) and sophisticated video equipment, extending access to the underwater world. Public areas : Bistro Bar; Chart Room; Restaurant; Global Gallery; Library, Lounge with full service bar and state-of-the-art facilities for films, slideshows and presentations; Mud Room with lockers for expedition gear, and Observation Lounge. Our "Open Bridge" provides guests an opportunity to meet our Officers and Captain and learn about navigation. Meals : Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Menu is international with local flair. Cabins : All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private facilities and climate controls. Expedition Equipment : Zodiac landing craft, kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, SplashCam, underwater video camera, Crow's Nest remote controlled camera, video microscope, snorkeling gear. Special Features : A full-time doctor, Undersea Specialist, LEX Photo Specialist and Video



and Sauna.



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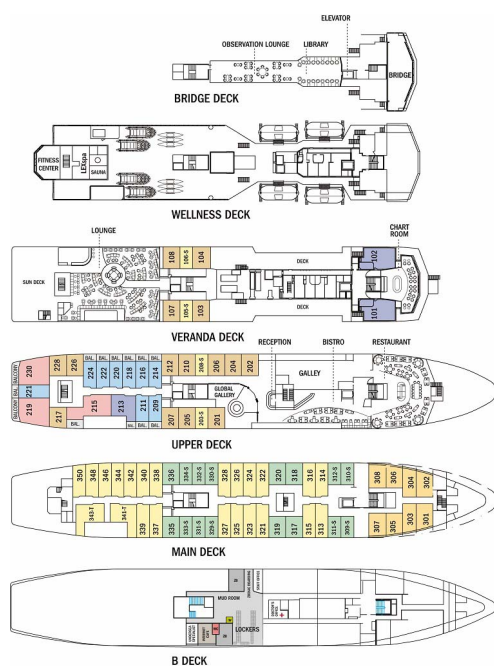
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