

EXPLORING PATAGONIA'S NATIONAL PARKS SMALL SHIP CRUISE

Experience the full sweep of Patagonia at close range, from charming Chiloe Island to the wilds of Tierra del Fuego and the pinnacles of Torres del Paine National Park. Aboard the powerful yet nimble National Geographic Resolution, you'll navigate the region's winding network of fjords, channels and isles to access remote corners that reveal incandescent icebergs, gigantic glacial fields and ancient forests. Explore a swath of the breathtakingly scenic Route of the Parks, including Karukinka Reserve, which you'll visit with special permission, and spot the myriad creatures that thrive within this vast, natural kingdom.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Ushuaia, Argentina / Embark Ship

Arrive in Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, nestled between the snow-capped peaks of the Andes and the icy waters of the Beagle Channel. Enjoy free time to explore before a late-afternoon transfer to the ship for embarkation.



Arrival Time: Arrive by 3:00 p.m. local time.
Arrival City: Ushuaia, Argentina

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Days 2-5 Tierra del Fuego / Karukinka Natural Park

Explore Tierra del Fuego, one of Patagonia's crown jewels and the southernmost archipelago on Earth. Venture through a landscape of glacier-carved mountains, sub-Antarctic forests, pristine lakes and deep fjords framed by dramatic moraines and U-shaped valleys.

At the heart of this wilderness lies Karukinka National Park, one of the largest privately protected conservation areas in the world. Established in 2004 and managed in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society, the park spans more than 1,160 square miles of forests, peat bogs, rivers and mountains. Explore Jackson Bay, where rugged peaks descend to the sea and black-browed albatrosses nest on small offshore islands. Keep watch for Andean condors, guanacos, foxes and other wildlife as you discover this remarkable corner of Patagonia.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Days 6-8 Chilean Fjords

Sail through a pristine landscape of soaring snow-capped mountains, massive glaciers, verdant islands, serene lakes and cascading waterfalls. Wind through dramatic fjords, exploring by Zodiac and kayak in protected waters and hiking along rugged shorelines where brilliant blue ice contrasts with lush forests and wildflowers. Keep watch for Andean condors, albatrosses, grebes, petrels, shearwaters and other seabirds that thrive in this remote wilderness.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Days 9-12 Inland Passage

This vast region of incomparable scenery is seemingly untouched by humans except for a few fishing villages perched at "the end of the world." Over the next few days, you'll have multiple opportunities to hike, Zodiac cruise and kayak among snowcapped mountains, thousands of islands covered with forests, lakes, soaring granite walls and waterfalls.

One of the many highlights is the Pio XI Glacier, the longest glacier in the southern hemisphere outside of Antarctica, running some 60 miles from the Patagonia icefield to the fjord, where it noisily calves off gigantic ice masses at a rate of one every several minutes. Get up close to this impressive natural wonder on Zodiac rides.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 13 Aysén / Coyhaique / Andes Mountains

Today, choose from two options. Take a morning excursion to Aiken del Sur, a privately owned park set in a beautiful evergreen forest with lovely lakes and waterfalls, including a 75-foot-high cascade. As you walk the well-maintained trails, keep an eye out for ringed kingfishers, woodpeckers and a variety of forest birds. Cap off the walk with a Patagonian lamb barbecue (with vegetarian options) and entertainment by local

musicians.

Alternatively, take a full-day excursion to the Coyhaique National Reserve, driving up into a scenic valley nestled in the Andes, with views of the snow-covered peaks. The starting point for the day's hike is Laguna Verde, "Green Lake," which you'll reach after passing through evergreen forest full of giant rhubarb and ferns into the transition zone of deciduous Nothofagus forest. An array of animals can be found here, including three Chilean woodpecker species, passerines, diurnal and nocturnal predatory birds, pumas and foxes. After the hike, enjoy a picnic lunch followed by time in the city of Coyhaique to see its central plaza and artisans' stalls.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14 Tantauco Park

Located in the wildest and most remote territory of the Great Island of the Chiloe Archipelago, Tantauco Park is made up of evergreen forests, millennial cypress groves, bog plains from the last glacial period and imposing lakes and rivers. A formidable diversity of flora and fauna, including many endangered species, are concentrated within, and the park has been declared one of the 36 key sites of biodiversity on Earth, as well as a priority conservation spot in Chile. You will have a choice of walks or hikes through the forests with your naturalist guides and an opportunity to visit the museum and information center to learn more about the history, ecology and conservation work in this remote and rugged region.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 15 Castro (Chiloé Island)

Spend the day exploring Chiloe Island, which is known for its unique palafitos, colorful fishermen's houses precariously built on stilts along the water's edge, as well as its wooden churches, collectively designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The town of Castro has shops and a large open-air market where the Chileans show their wares, such as alpaca sweaters and lapis jewelry. You may choose a trip to Chiloe National Park to see its forests, wetlands and wildlife, with a selection of longer or shorter walks. Alternatively, visit some of the welcoming small communities that dot the countryside and learn about their traditional rural way of life.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 16 Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park

Spanning 750,000 protected acres in Chilean Patagonia, Pumalin National Park is one of the last areas where the unusual alerce forest remains. These huge trees compare in size and age to California redwoods, with some specimens reaching 2,000 years old. The Pumalin Project was established in 1995 by the late American conservationist Doug Tompkins, who wanted to preserve some of the remaining virgin forest in Chile. Walk through the forest with naturalists, visit a hidden waterfall or climb along a rushing stream and look for forest birds along the trail. In the afternoon, head for the Golfo de Corcovado in search of Magellanic penguins, sooty shearwaters, dolphins and, with luck, whales.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 17 Puerto Montt / Disembark Ship

Disembark in Puerto Montt and transfer to the airport for onward flights.

Departure Time: Depart after 10:00 a.m. local time
Departure City: Puerto Montt, Chile

Meals Included: Breakfast

Please note:
Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

YOUR SHIP:	**National Geographic Orion**
VESSEL TYPE:	**Luxury Expedition**
LENGTH:	**103 metres**
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	**102 (in 53 cabins)**
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	**2003 / Refurbished 2014**

Engineered for maximum comfort and safety, _Orion_ is equipped with the latest technology including large retractable stabilizers, sonar, radar, and an ice-strengthened hull. A shallow draft plus bow and stern thrusters provide the convenience of being able to maneuver close to shore. 14 Zodiacs ensure quick disembarkation and offer the ideal transport for up-close exploration. _National Geographic Orion_ meets strict specifications for environmental protection and the on board waste management systems meet the stringent Antarctic operational standards enabling us to travel to the most pristine environments. A host of advanced design features and technology ensures sustainable marine environmental practices. _National Geographic Orion_ accommodates 102 guests in 53 cabins, including several with balconies. She is spacious and modern, with a variety of public rooms that offer panoramic views of the passing landscape. Friendly and informal, _Orion_ fosters a welcoming atmosphere where like-minded guests share in exceptional experiences and enrichment. Her public rooms include a dramatic window-lined main lounge, as well as an observation lounge and library perched at the very top of the ship, with plentiful observation decks. The spacious lounge is the heart of our expedition community, and is suited for spirited cocktail hours, informative presentations and our nightly tradition of Recap. In addition, a dedicated theater provides a unique setting for specialist presentations or films and slideshows. Both the main dining room and outside buffet easily accommodate all guests at once for open seating dining. On selected nights, weather permitting, our dining room menu is also available on the outside deck. While _Orion_ interiors are elegant, life aboard is always casual, with no need for formal clothing. And you'll find shipboard services like laundry, in-room cabled internet, and public-area wifi make packing and traveling more





convenient.

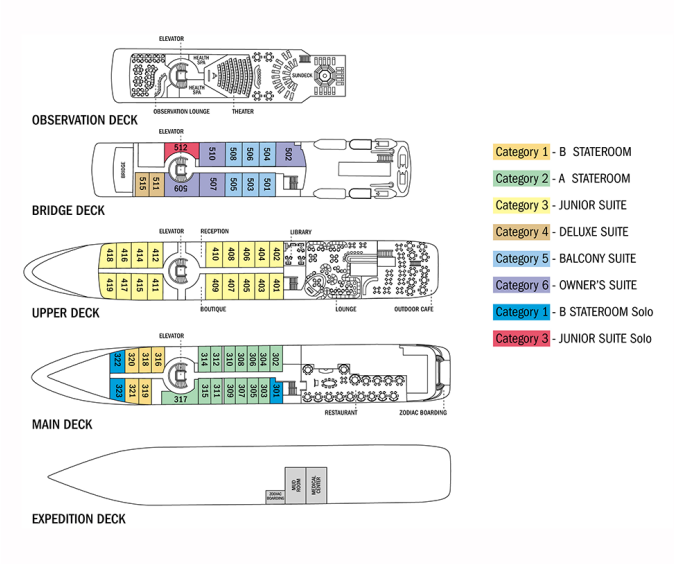
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