

## Patagonian Fjords of Chile

*Chart a course through the labyrinthine fjords that define Chile's spectacular coastline on this 2-week expedition cruise, sailing from Cape Horn to Valparaiso with numerous stops enroute to fully explore this magnificent coastline.*



*The Chilean Fjords are one of nature's great wonders – a complex maze of inland passages, fjords and glaciers, which sustain a thriving coastal wildlife including large colonies of penguins, elephant seals, cormorants, steamer ducks, and migrating whales.*

*Your cruise will take you through "Glacier Alley", an 150 mile stretch of spectacular blue-iced glaciers and into the narrow Garibaldi Fjord (a UNESCO biosphere reserve), with views of the ice-covered peaks of the vast Darwin mountain range. It's common to see killer whales in these waters, as food is so plentiful. Your journey then takes you deeper into Chile's fjords to arrive at Puerto Natales, where you disembark and drive through the Torres del Paine – Chile's prized jewel (voted the 5th most beautiful place in the world by National Geographic). Here in this huge national park of over 1630sq kms are found vertical granite peaks soaring to 8,000 feet, glacier lakes, waterfalls, and rich golden pampas.*

*Continuing north, your cruise will visit Chile's remote fishing settlements of Puerto Eden and the lovely Caleta Tortel, where the houses are built on stilts and the streets are raised wooden walkways. And then on to Castro, one of Chile's oldest cities founded in 1567. Later on, your voyage will explore the Isla Mocha with its rich flora and fauna and fascinating past before reaching Valparaiso – another of Chile's beautiful coastal cities, located approx. 110km from the capital at Santiago.*



## Day 1: Embark in Ushuaia

Arrive in Ushuaia, the world's southernmost town. Ushuaia sits facing the Beagle Channel with a backdrop of craggy mountain tops and beech forests. If time allows, explore Ushuaia, a cosmopolitan, colourful city notable for its clapboard houses and steep wooden staircases.

In the afternoon, board the 5-star Ocean Victory - your luxurious home for the next 14 days!

Set sail through the Beagle Channel, passing famous glaciers such as Holanda, Italia and Alemania. The channel is rich with wildlife including colonies of cormorant, gentoo and magellanic penguins, as well as sea lions which can be seen on virtually every rocky outcrop. If you want to learn more about the region and its human history, take the time to read Darwin's journals for fascinating accounts of the Yaghan tribe, which once flourished in this harsh region.

## Day 2: To Cape Horn

Today's sailing takes you through the waters of the Cape Horn, where the Pacific and Atlantic oceans meet. If the weather is accommodating, you will go ashore on zodiacs to Hornos Island (the smallest of the Hermite Islands), whose only inhabitants are the lighthouse keeper and his family.

While here, you may visit a memorial, built in the shape of an albatross, to commemorate the lives of the sailors who lose their lives while 'rounding the Horn'.



## Day 3: Garibaldi Fjord, Alberto de Agostini National Park

Today will see you sail through the narrow and beautiful Garibaldi Fjord in Alberto de Agostini National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and one of the most pristine eco-regions in southern America. Here are found soaring glaciers as well as diverse plant life and sea life, including the iconic elephant seal. It is not unusual to see a pod of killer whales in these waters, attracted by the plentiful seafood.

## Day 4: Fort Bulnes & the Strait of Magellan

Today you sail away from the island of Tierra del Fuego and into the Magellan Strait to arrive at Fort Bulnes. There will be time to explore this remote Chilean outpost and learn about its fascinating history. The fort was built in 1843 on the rocky shores of Punta Santa Ana under the command of

President Bulnes Prieto, who wished to maintain control of the Magellan Strait and the ships that sailed through it. Destroyed by military forces in 1848, but restored to its original form in the 1940s, the fort and the area around it are now part of the Strait of Magellan Park.



## Day 5: Into the Chilean Fjords

The day is set for cruising on the legendary Strait of Magellan, which divides Tierra del Fuego (literally, the “Land of Fire”) from the South American continent, as well the Atlantic from the Pacific Ocean. Named after the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, who was the first to navigate the strait in 1520 at the request of the Spain’s King Charles 1st, Chile annexed the Strait in May 1843 and made it part of its territory.

The climate here is sub-Antarctic, yet these coasts were in the past home to a highly developed and populous Native American culture consisting of maritime nomadic hunter-gatherers and other tribes who thrived on fishing these waters. Until the early 1800s, these tribes enjoyed isolated lives, but that changed when the governments of Chile and Argentina instigated radical eradication programmes. Exposure to western diseases also contributed to their demise. Today, our knowledge of these many different peoples is extremely sparse.

## Day 6: Puerto Natales & the Torres del Paine

This morning will see you arrive at Puerto Natales, having sailed 200km overnight. This charming port town has a beautiful location, backed by snow-covered mountains on one side and the turquoise waters of Last Hope Sound (Seno Ultima Esperanza) on the other.

Disembark in Puerto Natales for the one-hour journey by bus into Torres Del Paine National Park, considered one of the most beautiful national parks in the world. The park’s landscape is dominated by three massive, almost vertical, granite towers, the highest of which climbs to approx. 2,800 metres above sea level. Elsewhere, the park’s defining features are its glacial lakes, rivers, and open grasslands. Wildlife includes Andean deer, guanaco, puma, skunks and hares, as well as a wealth of birds, such as Andean condors, Chilean flamingo, black-faced ibis, black-necked swans, and kelp geese. Rhea birds are also occasionally seen. In short, Torres del Paine is a paradise for photographers and wildlife enthusiasts!





## Day 7: Sailing through the Chilean fjords

Already you are deep in the Chilean archipelago, sailing through a complex network of narrow waterways and channels, including Sarmiento, Esteban, Angostura, and Inocentes, before reaching the 250km-long Canal Messier.

Wherever you look during this leg of the voyage, you will be surrounded by beautiful scenery of mountain peaks and glaciers. Life above and below the water is interesting and plentiful. Small fishing villages abound and zodiac landings will be planned to visit the most accessible of them.

## Day 8: Puerto Eden & the Brüggen Glacier

This morning you cruise past the 60km long Brüggen Glacier (also known as Pio XI glacier – named after Pope Pius 11<sup>th</sup>), which flows down from the huge ice fields of Patagonia. Over 40 miles long, this is the longest glacier in the world outside Antarctica.

Cruising at a safe distance from the glacier front, you continue north through the Messier to arrive at the remote fishing village of Puerto Eden, located in Bernardo O’Higgins National Park, on the southern Patagonian Ice Fields. The village is accessible only by boat and has less than 200 inhabitants. Houses and roads are built on wooden promenades and boardwalks.

There will be time to explore the village and its spectacular surroundings before setting sail again late this afternoon.



## Day 9: Caleta Tortel

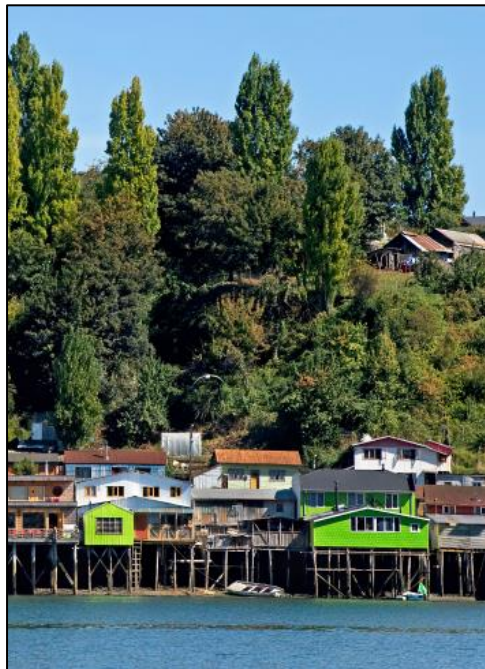
Today your cruise reaches the end of the Messier Channel, as you arrive at Caleta Tortel, a charming Chilean coastal village. After disembarking the ship late morning, you will have some free time to explore the town.

Caleta Tortel enjoys a picturesque location at the base of a mountain, surrounded by forest on the banks of Chile's longest river, the Baker. Originally established as a timber community, most of the houses and roads in Caleta Tortel are built from the local cypress wood. A raised boardwalk surrounds the village and stretches for miles past small bays and inlets. The village was designed with great care so that each house has a view of the water. Many have been built into the forested slopes and are connected by wooden staircases, woven between the houses. Communal areas such as playgrounds and the town square have also been built on the boardwalks. It's a fascinating and lovely place to explore.



## Day 10: Toward Castro

Today will be at sea, as you journey further along the coastline towards Castro, in Chile's beautiful lake district. There will be time to enjoy the excellent onboard facilities and activities, whether that's taking a dip in one of the hot tubs or enjoying a relaxing massage. Alternatively, sit and chat to other guests or find a quiet corner in which to read.



## Day 11: Castro, Chiloe Island

Disembark at Castro, located on Chiloe Island.

Founded in 1567, Castro is one of Chile's oldest cities. It's a lovely place to stroll around and explore leisurely. Perhaps the city's defining feature are its colourful wooden houses, or 'palafitos', traditional fishermen homes that are built on stilts over the water. There are also several UNESCO heritage sites to discover on the island, including the lovely Church of San Francisco, situated in the plaza at the centre of Castro.

Beyond its historical sites, Castro is also just a pleasure to explore. The craft market, located close to the Church of San Francisco, is a great place to pick up woven baskets, which make for lovely souvenirs. There are lots of restaurants in which to stop for lunch and enjoy some delicious seafood, with oysters being a particular speciality.

## Day 12: Isla Mocha

Today the ship's zodiacs will land at the small Pacific Island of Mocha, almost half of which is designated as a national park. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a scenic walk, taking in the spectacular landscape of pristine white beaches, virgin forests and ocean. Birding is wonderful on

Mocha Island, with species such as the endangered Fardela castellana, the chucao de la mocha, the pink-footed shearwater, and the bandurrias all present within this region. The island is also home to the pudu, the world's smallest deer.

Originally, Isla Mocha was inhabited by the Lafkenche, or the "people of the sea" – part of the wider Mapuche tribe. The Lafkenche are reputed to have seen off Sir Francis Drake when he tried to land his ship on the island. In 2007, skulls from the original Mapuche people were compared to skulls from inhabitants of Easter Island, and were found to have astonishing similarities, supporting theories that propose a distant connection between South America and the remote islands of the Pacific Ocean.

Nowadays, Isla Mocha is home to around 700 residents, most of whom live off the land and sea. Tourism plays a small part in the island's economy. Most transport is by horse and cart, as there are very few cars on the island.

### **Day 13: At sea en route to Valparaiso**

Today is spent at sea and at leisure, with time to read, listen to the on-board lectures, and enjoy the company of your fellow passengers.

### **Day 14: Disembark in Valparaiso**

Arrive in Valparaiso this morning and say goodbye to the crew and your fellow passengers as you disembark the Ocean Victory.



Valparaiso is a beautiful city most famous for its incredible maze of hills, vintage funiculars, fabulous cliff-top houses accessed by steep staircases, and panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean. The atmosphere here is distinctly bohemian, emphasised by the colourful mansions and narrow streets full of interesting shops, cafes and small boutique hotels.

Your itinerary ends in Valparaiso. We can help with accommodation in Valparaiso or in nearby Santiago if required, or with your transfer to the airport if flying out this evening. Please note that transfer and hotel arrangements on day 14 are at additional cost and will vary according to your requirements.

*Please see price guide on next page.*

## Booking Information (2023):

This cruise will depart for the first time from Ushuaia, in southern Argentina, on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2023. There are various cabin options, including but not limited to:

*Twin/double cabin with balcony (category C) - £6,125 per person*

*Twin/double cabin with porthole (category D) - £5,000 per person*

*Single cabin with porthole (category G) - £6,700*

Triple cabins (cat. F) and higher category suites (categories A and B) are also available, [please enquire](#) for rates and availability.

### Includes:

- 14-days' cruise with accommodation in a cabin with private facilities
- All Zodiac landings and excursions as per itinerary
- English-speaking expedition team
- Full board on the ship - breakfast, lunch, dinner and afternoon snacks
- Free tea and coffee 24 hours' daily
- Rubber boot rentals
- Guiding and lectures by your expedition leader and team
- Near-shore guided walks in towns and settlements
- Local taxes
- Special photo workshop
- Digital visual journal link after voyage, including voyage log, gallery, species list and more!

### Excludes:

- International flights
- Pre- and post-travel arrangements
- Transfers to / from the vessel
- Passport and visa expenses
- Meals ashore
- Insurance
- All items of a personal nature
- Tips

### Special offer – save up to 20% on select cabins

A saving of **£1,225** applies to cat. C cabins if booked before 15<sup>th</sup> April 2022, reducing the cost of a double/twin cabin with balcony from £6,125 to **£4,900 per person!** This saving can also be applied to suites (categories A and B), with the lowest category suites starting from £5,550pp once the saving is applied.



### About your vessel – the Ocean Victory

During this cruise, you'll sail on board the Ocean Victory, a small and very modern vessel that is part of a brand new generation of low-energy hybrid cruise ships.

The Ocean Victory offers a total of 93 comfortable staterooms, all with a view of the ocean (and 90% with their own balcony), several restaurants, a wellness area, a Nordic Bar, an open deck dining facility, a modern lecture lounge, and other amenities.

The Ocean Victory also has a strong environmentally-friendly policy onboard, with an implementation of the Green Initiative Program, ensuring both absolute comfort and sustainability for guests.