Travel with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte

Breathtaking Argentina and Chile

March 8th – 20th, 2020

*Optional 3-day extension to Easter Island

Join us for a truly once-in-a-lifetime trip that you don’t want to miss! Visit Argentina, Chile, and explore Patagonia— the end of the world, and the miracle of Easter Island.

All accommodations are luxury hotels. The Australis Cruise (days 4-8) is all inclusive, providing breakfast, lunch, dinner, and all alcoholic drinks you may want to enjoy. For non-cruise days, all breakfasts, 6 lunches and 4 dinners are included in trip cost.

Prices for the trip can be found on Page 13. Pricing for the Easter Island Extension can be found on Page 16. A deposit of $500 is due by December 15, 2019 to secure your seat for the trip, with full payment due by January 7, 2020.

Please contact Noah Ameris at the World Affairs Council of Charlotte via email or call 704-687-7762 if you have questions or need more information about the trip.
Day 1: Sunday, March 8th, 2020

Depart from Charlotte-Douglas International Airport. Time-appropriate meals and in-flight services will be provided.

Day 2: Monday, March 9th, 2020

Welcome to Argentina! Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, our personnel will greet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel.

*Palacio Duhau - Park Hyatt Buenos Aires is a luxury hotel located in the traditional neighborhood of Recoleta. The two-building complex combines the luxury of an aristocratic palace with upscale contemporary design. Experience a residential stay surrounded by exquisite architecture in spacious rooms and suites, and indulge in haute cuisine created by talented chefs. Contemplate an impressive private art collection, unwind at one of the best Buenos Aires spas, and enjoy the natural wonder of our incredible gardens.* – [Read More]

Enjoy the rest of the day relaxing at the hotel.

**Overnight at Park Hyatt Buenos Aires in Buenos Aires ★★★★★**
Day 3: Tuesday, March 10th, 2019

Breakfast included

**MORNING BUENOS AIRES CITY TOUR WITH LUNCH**

On an unforgettable route, we will experience the porteño magic of the city. These few hours feature all the magic of Argentina’s capital city. In this comprehensive overview of the “Paris of South America”, we will visit the glamorous neighborhoods of Recoleta and its most famous cemetery, Palermo, May Square and the Pink House, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the new and trendy Puerto Madero Area, and many other emblematic buildings and palaces of unique architectural, historical, and cultural value.

*As far as classic neighborhoods go, few can beat Buenos Aires’ Recoleta. While many might label it a place better reserved for buttoned-up, moneyed ladies who lunch, it’s surprisingly diverse, offering a wide array of experiences that the Argentine capital’s currently hip enclaves can’t match. It mixes fine dining with street food, fine arts with craft cocktails, and it is home to one of the world’s most oft-visited cemeteries. Here, a guide to making the most out of its timeless grandeur.* [Read More](#)

The visit would not be complete without the sights of the first settlements of the city of Buenos Aires. The picturesque neighborhood of San Telmo was the residence of the Porteño aristocracy until the end of the XIX century. San Telmo houses a renowned antiques market, held every Sunday, as well as Caminito Street, in the colorful, Italian immigrants’ neighborhood of La Boca. Then, you will continue with a guided visit to Teatro Colon.

**Enjoy lunch at La Brigada, Buenos Aires’ legendary steakhouse with delicious succulent beef, exquisite wine options, and rooms covered in sports memorabilia.**

Head back to the hotel after lunch and enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure.

**OPTIONAL: DINNER AND TANGO SHOW AT “GALA TANGO”**

Famous for its amazing nightlife and for being the land of [Carlos Gardel](#), Buenos Aires has countless gastronomic and artistic options. Tango portrays the ‘Queen of the River Plate’ (’Reina del Plata’). We will enjoy an unforgettable night, surrender to the magic of this city that never sleeps and to the charm of this overwhelming and sanguine music “main protagonist of the night” while enjoying the best of its varied gastronomic offerings.

**Overnight at Park Hyatt Buenos Aires in Buenos Aires ★★★★★**
Day 4: Wednesday, March 11th, 2019

Breakfast included

Transfer from the Park Hyatt Buenos Aires to a flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia.

Welcome to Ushuaia

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be transferred to Cruceros Australis Cruise Line office for check-in. After a welcome toast and introduction of the captain and crew, the Cruceros Australis’ state-of-the-art expedition vessel will depart for one of the most remote corners of planet Earth. During the night, we will traverse the Beagle Channel, a strait known for its stunning glaciers, and cross from Argentina into Chilean territorial waters.

*Patagonia is a long dry windswept plateau that stretches south to Tierra del Fuego, featuring mountain valleys, grasslands, forests and lakes. It spans both Argentina and Chile and is home to incredible mountain peaks, ice fields and glaciers. [Read More]*

As we proceeded along the Beagle Channel, the scenery assumed a peculiar and very magnificent character [...] The mountains were here about three thousand feet high, and terminated in sharp and jagged points. They rose in one unbroken sweep from the water’s edge, and were covered to the height of fourteen or fifteen hundred feet by the dusky-coloured forest. – Charles Darwin (HMS Beagle)

The enrapturing [lights of Ushuaia] disappear as we turn into the narrow Murray Channel between Navarino and Hoste islands.

*Ushuaia takes full advantage of its end-of-the-world status, and an increasing number of Antarctica-bound vessels call into its port. The town’s mercantile hustle knows no irony: there's a souvenir shop named for Jimmy Button (a Fuegian native taken for show in England) and the ski center is named for the destructive invasive castor (beaver). That said, with a pint of the world’s southernmost microbrew in hand, you can happily plot the outdoor options: hiking, sailing, skiing, kayaking and even scuba diving. [Source: Lonely Planet]*

Dinner included

The Australis Cruise is all inclusive, including alcohol and wine.

Overnight at [Cruceros Australis](Ushuaia to Punta Arenas)
Day 5: Thursday, March 12th, 2019
Ushuaia

**Breakfast included**

Around the break of dawn, the Australis Cruise crosses Nassau Bay and enters the remote archipelago that comprises Cape Horn National Park.

*Today, Cape Horn and the surrounding Magallanes region are home to a wild ocean ecosystem that includes abundant marine mammals and seabirds and the world’s southernmost kelp forest. In the Bárbara Channel, one of three channels connecting the Strait of Magellan and the Pacific Ocean, South American sea lions swim like torpedoes. And on the Diego Ramírez Islands, the southernmost inhabited outpost in the Americas, a variety of birds—including the black-browed albatross and rockhopper penguin—congregate at important nesting grounds. Read More*

Weather and sea conditions permitting, you will go ashore on the windswept island that harbors legendary Cape Horn (Cabo de Hornos). Discovered in 1616 by a Dutch maritime expedition -- and named after the town of Hoorn in West Friesland, NL -- Cape Horn is a sheer 425-meter (1,394-foot) high rocky promontory overlooking the turbulent waters of the Drake Passage. For many years, it was the only navigation route between the Pacific and Atlantic, and was often referred to as the "End of the Earth." The park was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2005.

The Chilean navy maintains a permanent lighthouse on the island, staffed by a lightkeeper and his family, as well as the tiny Stella Maris Chapel and modern Cape Horn Monument (currently awaiting repair after being damaged by fierce winds).

Sailing back across Nassau Bay, we anchor at the fabled Wulaia Bay, one of the few places in the archipelago where the human history is just as compelling as the natural environment. Originally the site of one of the region's largest Yámana aboriginal settlements, the bay was described by Charles Darwin and sketched by Captain FitzRoy in the 1830s during their voyages on HMS Beagle. This area is also renowned for its mesmerizing beauty and dramatic geography.

**Lunch included**
After a visit to the Australis-sponsored museum – focused on the Yámana people and European missionaries in the area – housed in an old radio station, passengers have a choice of three hikes (of increasing degrees of difficulty) that ascend the heavily wooded mountain behind the bay.

You will stroll through an enchanted Magellanic forest of lengas, coigües, canelos and ferns to reach panoramic viewpoints overlooking the bay.

Dinner is included

Cruise is all inclusive including alcohol and wine. Light snack and warming drink or whiskey provided upon return from excursions.

Overnight at Cruceros Australis (Ushuaia to Punta Arenas)
www.australis.com

Day 6: Friday, March 13th, 2019

Overnight, we continue our Patagonia glacier tour around the western end of Tierra del Fuego, the southernmost extreme of the Americas via the very narrow Gabrial Channel, Magdalena Channel and Cockburn Channel. After rounding the remote Brecknock Peninsula, the Australis cruise tacks eastward and enters the Beagle Channel again. By morning, we will be entering Pia Fjord and boarding the Zodiacs for a shore excursion to Pia Glacier.

Pia Glacier is breathtakingly big. It tumbles down from the mountains into the sea in a secluded corner of the Chilean Fjords, and is one of the highlights of 'Glacier Alley'. Sit on the shore long enough and you're bound to hear it creaking and groaning as the ice moves. If you're lucky, you'll even catch the huge splash as the ice calves from the frozen wall, and crashes into the water. *(Source: Swoop-Patagonia)*

After disembarking, we take a short hike to gain a panoramic view of the spectacular glacier, which extends from the mountaintops down to the sea or a longer much more difficult walk up a lateral moraine of the old Pia Glacier. No one knows for certain how the hulking mass of snow and ice got its feminine moniker, but one theory says it was named for Princess Maria Pia of Savoy (1847-1911), daughter of the Italian king.
Making our way further west along the Beagle Channel, we enter another long fjord and drop anchor near Garibaldi Glacier for another shore excursion. Garibaldi is one of only three glaciers in Patagonia gaining mass rather than staying the same or slowly shrinking.

*One of the most important things to see in Garibaldi fjord is the retreating Garibaldi glacier. Regarded as one of Chile’s most beautiful glaciers, this mammoth wall of sapphire and teal-colored ice doesn’t disappoint, as it towers over visitors. A notable feature of the Garibaldi glacier is its medial moraine. What’s a medial moraine and why is it so notable? [Read More]*

**Lunch included**

After lunch, we hike through a virgin Magellanic forest to a glacial waterfall, a towering wall of ferns and moss, and spectacular viewpoints looking down on the glacier and fjord. *The walk is demanding -- very steep, negligible trail, rough footing -- and not for everyone.* For those who choose to stay onboard, our captain will point the bow towards the beautiful sky blue so everyone can enjoy the panoramic view from the upper decks.

**Dinner included**

*Cruise is all inclusive including alcohol and wine. Light snack and warming drink or whiskey provided upon return from excursions.*

**Overnight at Cruceros Australis (Ushuaia to Punta Arenas)**
[www.australis.com](http://www.australis.com)

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**Day 7: Saturday, March 14th, 2019**

**Breakfast included**

Early in the morning, we will sail through the Cockburn Channel, a 40-mile long passage between the westernmost Brednook Peninsula of Isla Grande del Tierra del Fuego and a cluster of lesser islands in extreme southern Chile, and enter Agostini Sound. From there it is possible to see the glaciers that descend from the middle of the Darwin Mountain Range -- some of them reaching the water.

This morning, we will disembark and go for an easy walk around a lagoon, which was formed by the melting of the Águila Glacier and will reach a spot right in front of the glacier with stunning views.
Lunch included

In the afternoon, we will approach the Condor Glacier via Zodiac -- and hopefully see some of the abundant Andean Condors in the area.

Dinner included

_Cruise is all inclusive including alcohol and wine. Light snack and warming drink or whiskey provided upon return from excursions._

**Overnight at Cruceros Australis (Ushuaia to Punta Arenas)**

*www.australis.com*

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**Day 8: Sunday, March 15th, 2019**

_Breakfast included_

After an overnight cruise through Magdalena Channel and back into the Strait of Magellan, we anchor off Magdalena Island, which lies about halfway between Tierra del Fuego and the Chilean mainland. Crowned by a distinctive lighthouse, the island used to be an essential source of supplies for navigators and explorers and is inhabited by an immense colony of **Magellanic penguins**.

*Magdalena Island stands out for the protection of species such as, Magellanic Penguin, Dominican Gull, Black-Browed Albatross and Imperial Conmorant. At the southeast of Magdalena Island there is a Sea Lions Colony of one and two hairs. (Source: fiordosdelsur.com)*

At the break of dawn, weather permitting, we will go ashore and hike a path that leads through thousands of penguins to a small museum lodged inside the vintage 1902 lighthouse.

After a short cruise south along the strait, disembarkation at Punta Arenas is scheduled for around 11:30. Upon arrival in Punta Arenas, our staff will greet you and transfer you to your hotel to relax. _On route, we will make a stop to have lunch._

**Lunch and dinner included**

**Overnight at** _Dreams del Estrecho Hotel (waterfront)_ **in Punta Arenas★★★★★**
Day 9: Monday, March 16\textsuperscript{th}, 2020  

Breakfast included

Transfer from your hotel in Punta Arenas to the airport.

Lunch provided while en route

Board flight from Punta Arenas to Santiago. Upon arrival, you will be met by a local guide and be transported 1.5 hours via bus to Valparaíso.

Dinner included included at hotel

Overnight at Palacio Astorea Hotel in Valparaíso ★★★★

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Day 10: Tuesday, March 17\textsuperscript{th}, 2020

Breakfast included

FULL DAY VIÑA DEL MAR AND VALPARAISO TOUR (PRIVATE)

During the tour route, you will visit two important cities, “Viña del Mar”, the main resort of Chile and “Valparaíso,” a port city founded in the XVI century and declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO.

Clean and orderly Viña del Mar is a sharp contrast to the charming jumble of neighboring Valparaíso. Manicured boulevards lined with palm trees, stately palaces, a sprawling public beach and beautiful expansive parks have earned it the nickname of Ciudad Jardín (Garden City). Read More

The promenade includes a panoramic tour by the emblematic places of Valparaíso, such as “National Congress” (Chile’s legislative branch of government), “O’Higgins Park” (Chile’s second largest park), “Italia Park,” and “Prat” dock located in the same port.

A must-see when visiting Valparaíso is the Sotomayor Square (Plaza Sotomayor), known for its eye-catching monument dedicated to the seamen who lost their lives in the Iquique Naval Battle.
Plaza Victoria (Victoria Square) is a lively square that has been a focal point of Valparaíso for almost two centuries. Impressive bronze statues and an exquisite fountain set around immaculate lawns surround the area, sharing space with colonial landmarks which serve as a reminder of the Europeans who settled in the city. There are four statues that symbolize the four seasons and represent Valparaíso’s seafaring and fishing heritage in the plaza center.

Walk through the wonderful viewpoints “Atkinson” and “Gervasoni” located in the most important hills of Valparaíso, “Cerro Alegre” and “Cerro Concepción.” We will use its old and picturesque cable cars, which are still connect the city.

**Lunch is included at Tierra del Fuego restaurant**

You will then continue along the beautiful sea-side route to arrive at the city of Viña del Mar, which is very well-known as the “Garden City”.

*If Santiago is the financial and business hub of Chile, then the coastal city of Viña del Mar is the country’s summer playground. Often referred to as “The Garden City”, Viña is part of the Greater Valparaiso area that also includes the nearby port city of Valparaiso, as well as the smaller municipalities of Concon, Quilpe, and Villa Alemana. The population of the entire region is approaching 1 million residents.* **Read More**

You will walk past the picturesque “Flower Clock” which was built for the 1962 World Cup, and is still a fully functioning ticking botanical clock. Take a stroll down Peru Avenue, people watch, do some shopping, and enjoy authentic Chilean cuisine from the food stands while enjoying a beautiful view of the sea.

Visit the **“Museum of Paleontology and Anthropology”** to check out the Rapa Nui culture (inhabitants of Easter Island), beginning with an authentic Moai located in the garden, brought to the continent in 1951 which along with those on display at the British Museum in London are the only ones outside of the island.

Return to the hotel to freshen up and enjoy the remainder of your evening.

**Dinner included**

**Overnight at Palacio Astoreca Hotel in Valparaíso ★★★★**
Day 11: Wednesday, March 18th, 2020

**Breakfast included**

**MATETIC WINERY TOUR (PRIVATE)**

Viña Matetic is a benchmark for wine tourism in this area. Located just over an hour's drive from Santiago and 45 minutes from Valparaiso and the central coast, Matetic Vineyards is the perfect setting to learn more about the wines and the bio-dynamic process that forms an essential characteristic of the winery.

The day features a tour, restaurant visit, wine tastings, hotel, excursions and outdoor shop. **Includes:** Private tour and tasting of four glasses of ultra-premium wines from EQ line and an assortment of cheese, crackers & nuts along with a gift glass with an engraved logo of Matetic Vineyards.

**Lunch is included at the vineyard**

After lunch, you will return to Santiago via bus and enjoy the remainder of your afternoon at leisure at the Mandarin Oriental.

**Dinner included** at Aqui Esta Coco “the first sustainable restaurant in Chile, a pioneer in its field, born from and environmental sensibility.”

**Overnight at Mandarin Oriental in Santiago ★★★★★**

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Day 12: Thursday, March 19th, 2020

**Breakfast included**

**CITY TOUR SANTIAGO AND SAN CRISTOBAL HILL (PRIVATE)**

Santiago de Chile was founded in 1541 by the Spanish Conqueror Pedro de Valdivia who was sent by Pizarri, the conqueror of the Incas, to establish a new capital in the fast-growing Spanish Empire in the New World. Much of the core layout as designed by the master builder Pedro de Gamboa remains to this day. During the half day city tour, you will visit key locations where the rich history of the city played out.

Santiago City is the perfect blend between the old colonial style and modern architecture, characteristics that make it one of the most interesting cities in South America.
Surprising, cosmopolitan, energetic, sophisticated and worldly, Santiago is a city of syncopated cultural currents, madhouse parties, expansive museums and top-flight restaurants. No wonder 40% of Chileans call the leafy capital city home. Read More

The tour begins with a visit to the heart of the city and Plaza de Armas. The concept of Plaza de Armas (literally translated as “square of weapons”) dates back to when Spanish conquistadors were establishing and laying out the grid in the Americas. Often, a single city block would be intentionally left empty and surrounded by government offices, cathedrals, and similar. In the event of an attack, the city’s population could gather there to be armed and protected.

Continue on to visit important landmarks such as the Santiago De Compostela Cathedral, the City Council, the Central Post Office, the National Historical Museum, and the Presidential Palace.

We continue to San Cristóbal Hill, which is home to Santiago’s largest park. Ascending 880 meters or 2640 feet above the city, the second highest natural point of Santiago offers an exquisite panoramic view of the city. Once at the top of the hill, you can explore the many different vantage points for viewing the city and the Andes from the Terraza Bellavista, as well see the 14 meter-high Virgin Mary statue and adjacent outdoor church up close.

As a special treat, take the funicular up to the top of San Cristóbal Hill, also known as Santiago Teleferico.

Lunch included at “Como agua para Chocolate” restaurant

After lunch, you will be transported from Santiago to the airport. You will fly from Santiago to Miami, overnight. You will clear customs in Miami before taking your connecting flight to Charlotte.

Time-appropriate meals and in-flight services will be provided.

Day 13: Friday, March 20\textsuperscript{th}, 2020

Arrive in Charlotte via flight from Miami.

Welcome Home!
STANDARD PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
*LAND, CRUISE, TOUR, HOTELS, AND LISTED INCLUDED MEALS
**If a single occupancy rate is needed, please contact WACC at 704-687-7762

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AIR TRAVEL:

STANDARD TRIP: All inclusive air travel: International roundtrip from Charlotte to Buenos Aires and Santiago de Chile to Charlotte, including all internal flights

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The Australis Cruise (days 4-8) is all inclusive, providing breakfast, lunch, dinner, and all alcoholic drinks you may want to enjoy. For non-cruise days, all breakfasts, 5 lunches and 3 dinners are included in trip cost. Also included in trip cost are the top-level hotels in each city, local transportation, several tours, and a highly qualified tour manager with dedicated local guides. Itinerary is subject to change as WACC secures meetings with US diplomats in Chile and Argentina, as well as with local political, cultural, and business leaders.

Travelers must be members of good standing with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte. If you are not a member, please contact nameris@worldaffairscharlotte.org or call 704-687-7757. Individual membership starts at $60 and is a tax-deductible donation.

- A deposit of $500 is due by Sunday, December 15th, 2019 to secure your seat for the trip.
- Full payment is due no later than Tuesday, January 7th, 2020.
- If you are traveling alone but would like a roommate, please let us know as soon as possible and we will work on matching you with another traveler.
- Business or First Class air travel is available. Please contact Jeff Knight (jknight111@hotmail.com) as soon as possible if you are interested in an upgrade.

Please note that a 3.5% processing charge will be added to all payments via American Express and a 3% processing charge will be added to all other credit card payments due to travel agency requirement. No additional charge if you pay by check.
OPTIONAL 3- DAY EXTENSION – Easter Island

Day 12: Thursday, March 19th, 2020

Lunch included at “Como agua para Chocolate” restaurant.

After lunch, return to the hotel and enjoy the rest of the afternoon and evening at your leisure.

Overnight at Mandarin Oriental in Santiago ★★★★★

Day 13: Friday, March 20th, 2020

Breakfast included

You will be transported from your hotel to the airport in Santiago where you will fly to Easter Island. Upon arrival at the Easter Island, you will be met at reception and transferred to your hotel for your once-in-a-lifetime all-inclusive experience.

Easter Island covers roughly 64 square miles in the South Pacific Ocean and is located some 2,300 miles from Chile’s west coast and 2,500 miles east of Tahiti. Its dramatic claim to fame is its almost 900 giant stone figures that date back centuries with distinctive design found in Polynesian culture.

*Few areas in the world possess a more mystical pull than this tiny speck of land, one of the most isolated places on Earth. It's hard to feel connected to Chile, over 3700km to the east, let alone the wider world. Endowed with the most logic-defying statues on the planet – the strikingly familiar moai – Easter Island (Rapa Nui to its native Polynesian inhabitants) emanates a magnetic, mysterious vibe. [Read More]*

Today enjoy one of the many different excursions offered in your Full Experience program, which can be reviewed on the following page: [https://www.hangaroa.cl/en/excursions/](https://www.hangaroa.cl/en/excursions/)

Lunch and dinner included

Overnight at Hotel Hangaroa Eco Village and Spa on Easter Island ★★★★
Day 14: Saturday, March 21st, 2020

**Breakfast included**

Today, enjoy one of the many different excursions offered in your Full Experience program, which can be reviewed on the following page: [https://www.hangaroa.cl/en/excursions/](https://www.hangaroa.cl/en/excursions/)

In the afternoon, you will be transported from your hotel to the airport in Easter Island where you will fly to Santiago. From Santiago, you will connect to an overnight flight to Miami before arriving in Charlotte the following day.

**Time-appropriate meals and in-flight services will be provided.**

Day 15: Sunday, March 22nd, 2020

**Miami / Charlotte**

Arrive in Charlotte via flight from Miami.

Welcome Home!
EASTER ISLAND EXTENSION - PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

*If a single occupancy rate is needed, please contact WACC at 704-687-7762

** Includes includes roundtrip economy air on LATAM airlines from Santiago to Easter Island (5 hour flight - upgrades available on request), 2 nights accommodation at Hanga Roa Hotel, roundtrip transfers, full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner at hotel, 2 excursions of your choice.

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