

South American Selection With Chilean Fjords Cruise

Day 1 ARRIVE IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL. Welcome to South America's capital of glamour—Rio de Janeiro. Your hotel is available for mid-afternoon check-in.

Day 2 RIO DE JANEIRO. Today, a PRIVATE CITY TOUR takes you to the Cosme Velho district, where you board a cog-wheel train that will take you through the lush tropical vegetation of Tijuca Forest to the top of CORCOVADO Mountain. This rounded peak rising 2,300 feet from the bay below is one of the new Seven Modern Wonders of the World and home to the iconic statue of Christ the Redeemer. Enjoy a breathtaking 360-degree panorama, which affords sweeping views of the city and beaches below. The afternoon and evening are at leisure. (B)

Day 3 RIO DE JANEIRO. Enjoy a full day at leisure. Your Local Host will suggest an optional Jeep tour to the rainforest in the middle of the city, Tijuca National Park and its bird sanctuary. This afternoon you may elect to discover historic Petropolis, a mountain resort and site of the former summer palace of Emperor Dom Pedro II, or take an optional excursion to visit the iconic Sugar Loaf Mountain. (B)

Day 4 RIO–IGUASSU FALLS. Fly to IGUASSU FALLS. This masterpiece of nature encompasses 275 separate falls and spans almost two miles. This afternoon's private tour is dedicated to enjoying the spectacle of this 2-mile-wide torrential downpour from the Brazilian side. (B)

Day 5 IGUASSU FALLS. This morning, take the Ecological Jungle TRAIN and tour the Argentine side of IGUASSU FALLS with numerous walkways that wind under the crashing water. (B)

Day 6 IGUASSU FALLS–BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA. Fly to Buenos Aires, proud capital of the vast country that occupies most of the southern part of the continent. After arriving at your central hotel you will have time to become acquainted with the “Paris of South America” and its wide boulevards and outdoor cafés. Enjoy an evening at leisure. (B)

Day 7 BUENOS AIRES A PRIVATE SIGHTSEEING TOUR this morning starts in the colorful La Boca district, site of the city's first port. Take a short walking tour of this unique neighborhood, then on to San Telmo, famous for its late-colonial buildings and a popular gathering spot for artists. At the Plaza de Mayo, see La Casa Rosada (the President's Pink House) and the METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL, which houses San Martin's Mausoleum. Drive past the ornate Colon Opera House before reaching the CEMETERY of the Recoleta, burial site of Eva Peron. This evening, perhaps savor the city's atmosphere on an optional dinner at a local restaurant, followed by a performance of Latin America's most sensuous dance—the Tango! (B)

Day 8 BUENOS AIRES. Today is at leisure. Your Local Host will suggest an optional excursion to the Pampas. Experience Argentine country life as you visit an estancia (ranch). Get acquainted with the lifestyle of the gauchos and enjoy a barbecue lunch and the warm hospitality of your hosts before returning to the city. (B)

Day 9 BUENOS AIRES–USHUAIA Fly to the “End of the World,” Ushuaia, situated on the island of Tierra del Fuego. Once a secluded outpost and penal colony, Ushuaia is now a growing community thriving on timber, fishing, and tourism. This afternoon, visit TIERRA DEL FUEGO NATIONAL PARK to learn about its bountiful flora and fauna. With the Chilean Andes as the backdrop, the scenery is nothing short of spectacular. (B)

Day 10 USHUAIA (EMBARKATION) Embark on your 4-night CRUISE aboard the Stella Australis. The voyage will take you through channels, bays, fjords, and past massive glaciers, snowcapped mountains, and unexplored areas of incomparable beauty. (B,D)

Day 11 CRUISING: CAPE HORN & WULAIA BAY Around the break of dawn, cross into Nassau Bay and enter the remote archipelago that comprises Cape Horn National Park. Disembark in Cape Horn National Park (weather permitting) to see Cape Horn, a sheer, almost 1,394-foot-high rocky promontory where the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans merge. In the afternoon, go ashore with your Naturalist in historic WULAIA BAY, once the site of one of the region's largest aboriginal settlements. Here, walk through a Magellanic forest and keep an eye out for elephant seals! (B,L,D)

Day 12 CRUISING: PIA & CARIBALDI GLACIER Overnight, continue around the western end of Tierra del Fuego via the very narrow Gabriel, Magdalena, and Cockburn Channels to Pia Fjord. Here, board the zodiacs for exploration of PIA GLACIER. Take a short hike to gain a panoramic view of the spectacular glacier, which extends from the mountaintops down to the sea. In the afternoon, drop anchor near GARIBALDI GLACIER to see one of only three glaciers in Patagonia that is gaining mass rather than staying the same or slowly shrinking. Hike through virgin Magellanic forest to a glacial waterfall, a towering wall of ferns and moss, and spectacular viewpoints looking down on the glacier and fjord. (B,L,D)

Day 13 CRUISING: AGOSTINI SOUND, ÁGUILA GLACIER & CONDOR SOUND Sail through the intricate channels of Tierra del Fuego to reach Cockburn Channel. At Agostini Sound, board Zodiac boats to explore ÁGUILA GLACIER, which hovers above a placid glacial lagoon surrounded by Patagonia's sub-Antarctic rainforest. Walk around the edge of the lagoon near the base of the glacier and keep an eye out for the condors that can sometimes be seen here. Learn from your Naturalist about the formation of glaciers and their influence on the abrupt geography of the region's channels. In the afternoon, cruise CONDOR SOUND via Zodiac and hopefully see some of the abundant Andean Condors in the area. (B,L,D)

Day 14 CRUISING: MAGELLAN STRAIGHT–MAGDALENA ISLAND–PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE (DISEMBARKATION)–SANTIAGO Cruise into the Strait of Magellan and anchor off MAGDALENA ISLAND where you will go ashore for a visit (weather permitting). Once an essential source of supplies for navigators and explorers, now this island is home to an immense colony of Magellanic penguins. During your walk, you'll also see the lighthouse, which guides ships on their way through the Strait of Magellan. In September and April, this excursion is replaced by a Zodiac ride at Isla Marta to observe sea lions. After your visit, sail to Punta Arenas, disembark, and fly to Santiago. (B)

Day 15 SANTIAGO Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (B)