



October 16th to the 28th 2022



Join us for our journey

PATAGONIA

(Argentina and Chile). The Healing of Nature

ANDEAN PATHS



THE BEAUTY OF PATAGONIA

with Daniel Koupermann

October 17- 29, 2022

Few places in the world have captivated the imagination of explorers and travelers like Patagonia. Almost 500 years ago, the first Europeans sailed through on four ships captained by Ferdinand Magellan. But this vast region was one of the last on the planet to be settled and remains pristine and sparsely populated, protected by the harsh, cold climate. Sailors from around the world continue to test their luck and courage in these harrowing straits. Mountaineers stage elaborate excursions through rugged territories, only to be beaten back, like their predecessors, by unrelenting storms. What seduces so many people to Patagonia is the idea of the "remote" -- indeed, the very notion of traveling to the "End of the World". It is a seduction, but also an illusion. After all, on a globe, everywhere is both the center and the end of the earth at the same time. And people do live there -- very few people, but those who do are hardy survivors.

A harsh, wind-whipped climate and Patagonia's geological curiosities have produced some of the most beautiful natural attractions in the world: the granite towers of Torres del Paine and Mount Fitz Roy; the Northern and Southern Patagonian Ice Fields with their colossal glaciers (the greatest masses of ice and sweet water reserves outside the polar caps); the flat steppe broken by multicolored sedimentary bluffs; and the emerald fjords and lakes that glow an impossible sea-foam blue. In the end, this is



what compels most travelers to plan a trip to Patagonia. Beyond landscapes, the region's cowboys (cal-led gauchos in Argentina and baqueanos in Chile) lend a certain air of roman-ticism. Top the natural allure with an excellent array of new lodges and guiding services, and it's more appealing, and easier than ever, to journey to the "End of the World."

Itinerary

Day 1, October 17th: Arrival - Buenos Aires

You will be met at the airport and taken to the 1828 Smart Hotel.

Day 2, October 18th: Buenos Aires Walking Tour / Experience the Milonga

Imagine a city that has the energy of New York City, the architecture of Paris, the café

culture of Rome, the theaters of London, the steakhouses of Chicago, the wines of Napa, the nightlife of Miami, and the friendly spirit of Sydney. That seemingly mythical place your mind has conjured? It's real, and it's called Buenos Aires.

Walking through the city offers the incomparable pleasure of opening ourselves to spontaneity and allows us to explore the whole universe in its streets. A private guide will lead us through the interesting streets of the city, discovering buildings, cafes, stories, and the people — the porteños. Walking at your own pace and using public transport (train, bus, metro), you become part of this incredible metropolis, living an authentic experience as a local.

Walking is a truly enriching experience. We can discover time and space from another perspective, and you observe things differently.

Lunch will be in a local restaurant and free time in the afternoon.

In the evening we will have dinner in a local restaurant and visit a milonga. A milonga is a social event or location for tango dancing (tango dance parties). So just before our visit to the milonga, we will have the opportunity to learn some basic steps of the tango. The Milonga is a musical genre that originated in the Río de la Plata areas of Argentina and Uruguay. It was very popular in the 1870s. It was derived from an earlier style of singing known as the payada de contrapunto. The songs were set to a lively 2/4 tempo, as are most milongas.

Day 3, October 19th: Buenos Aires

In the morning we will visit some of the most important and interesting sites in the city that we didn't see the previous day - the Jewish neighborhood, San Telmo Plaza and the neighborhood with all the international embassies.

Lunch in a local restaurant and free afternoon to explore Buenos Aires on your own.

Buenos Aires:

Buenos Aires is the capital and most populous city of Argentina. The city is located on the western shore of the estuary of the Río de la Plata, on the South American continent's southeastern coast. "Buenos Aires" can be translated as "fair winds" or "good airs". The Greater Buenos Aires urban area, which also includes several Buenos Aires Province districts, constitutes the fourth most populous metropolitan area in the Americas, with a population of around 17 million. It is known for its preserved Spanish/European-style architecture and rich cultural life. Buenos Aires is a multicultural city, home to multiple ethnic and religious groups. Several languages are spoken in the city, in addition to

Spanish, contributing to its cultural diversity. In the last 150 years the city, and the country in general, have been a major recipient of millions of immigrants from all over the world, making it a melting pot where ethnic groups live together making it one of the most culturally rich countries in South America.

Day 4, October 20th: Buenos Aires to El Calafate and Estancia Nibepo Aike

We will transfer to the Buenos Aires airport for the flight to El Calafate. Directly from the airport we will go for a light lunch and then we will continue for 1 1/2 hours to Estancia Nibepo Aike.

Calafate:

El Calafate is a town near the edge of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. It's mainly known as the gateway to Los Glaciares National Park, home to the massive Perito Moreno Glacier, whose ever-shifting icy landscape is popular for hiking and sightseeing. The name of the city is derived from a little bush with yellow flowers and dark blue berries that is very common in Patagonia. The history of El Calafate began in the first decades of the twentieth century. The town was officially founded in 1927 by the government of Argentina to promote settlement, but it was the creation of nearby Perito Moreno National Park in 1937 that sparked growth and the building of a better road access. El Calafate experiences a cold semi-arid climate with cool to warm, very dry summers and cool to cold, slightly wetter winters. The city's extremes of cold and heat are moderated by the influence of the very large lake - Lago Argentino. The waterfront of the city is located on a large shallow bay that is often frozen in the winter, allowing residents to ice skate. The highest temperature recorded was 87.3 F, while the lowest recorded temperature was 1.4 F on July 27, 2016. In October the average temperature is 57 F.

Day 5, October 21th: Estancia Nibepo Aike

While at this beautiful sheep ranch we will have the opportunity to participate in some activities like sheep herding, horseback riding, and hiking. The property is a beautiful place to explore the flora and fauna of this part of the world. Different paths lead to exploration via foot, horseback and bikes of the valley of the Cachorro River, the shores of Argentino Lake, the border milestone with Chile, and the Cerro Cristal hillside. From panoramic points above the Estancia you can see the Perito Moreno Glacier and the Hidden Glaciers, which are the southernmost glaciers in the National Park.

History of Nibepo Aike

The Croatian immigrant Santiago Peso arrived in Argentina at the beginning of the 20th century. He settled in an area located on the southern arm of Argentino Lake, nowadays within Los Glaciares National Park. He settled on approximately 20,000 hectares of land, and in a partnership with a group of fellow countrymen, founded the estancia "La Jerónima". The main activity of the estancia was sheep breeding, though they also included bovine breeding.

The wagons or carretas were the only means of cargo transportation until the middle of the 20th century. The main cargo was the wool production towards the ports on the Atlantic Ocean coast. Each wagon train was formed by several wagons pulled by 18 animals (horses and mules).

Day 6, October 22th: Lake Argentino/ Los Glaciares National Park, Uppsala and Spegazzini Glaciers and Glacier Perito Moreno.

After breakfast we will board a ship at La Soledad dock in Bahía Tranquila. Sailing

northwest on Lago Argentino, we will see Punta Bandera, Punta Avellaneda, Devil's mouth and Uppsala Glacier. Then we sail southward to-wards Canal Spegazzini and Spegazzini Glacier. We will have a light lunch aboard the ship.

After lunch we will dock at Puesto de las Vacas for a guided hike. We will disembark in Puerto Moreno and follow the paths very close to the glacier where we will see different impressive views, and hear the constant ice breaking thunder around us.

The Glacier is a natural wonder that rises 190 feet above sea level and has 3.1 miles of water front that freezes the atmosphere. The Glacier was declared a Humankind Natural Heritage Site by UNESCO, and is considered the 8th Natural Wonder. It is one of the most imposing glaciers on earth. It is surrounded by forest and mountains in Los Glaciares National Park, in the Patagonia region of Argentina which also has 356 other glaciers. Perito Moreno Glacier is impressive due to its extension and height, its easy access, continuous advance, loud loosening of huge icebergs, and the spectacular rupture of the wall of ice (calving).

Our private van will take us back to El Calafate.

Los Glaciares National Park

The Patagonian Ice Field is, after Antarctica, the largest concentration of ice on the planet. Its glaciers descend from 4,900 - 650 feet above sea level enabling unique access and viewing of the glaciers. Los Glaciares National Park offers a magnificent combination of forest, lakes, mountains, ice and steppes with over 200 glaciers. The most renowned being Spegazzini, rising 440 feet above sea level and Uppsala covering an entire valley with an approximate extension of

8,234 sq. feet and a length of 33 miles. We will sail on board a cruise ship around the channels that connect the Patagonian continental ice fields. The vessel accesses the ice-floes barrier lying close to the main wall of the Uppsala Glacier and the Spegazzini Glacier.

Day 7, October 23rd: El Calafate to Torres del Paine in Chile

We will drive for 4 hours approximately, depending the time we spend crossing the border with all the security and passport checks. The trip will take us through a very uninhabited and wild area of the Patagonian steppe. After crossing the border the landscape will change as we will be closer to the Andes Mountains. We will see glacier lakes and beautiful snowcapped peaks. We will arrive to Rio Serrano Hotel, very close to the Torres del Paine National Park entrance. Lunch and free time to hike in the surroundings of the hotel, to enjoy the facilities and the amazing views from our hotel. (Horseback riding optional)

Torres del Paine National Park

Torres del Paine National Park is located in the southernmost part of Chile serving as one of the 11 areas protecting the Patagonia region, Magallanes, and Chilean part of Antarctica. Four of the protected areas are national parks with Torres del Paine encompassing an area of 700.43 square miles (1,814.1 sq. km) by itself. The Paine mountain range is the heart of the park which delivers the series of three spectacular granite summits lining together in a row creating the picturesque Torres Del Paine. The three summits are known individually as Torres d'Agostini, Torres Central, and Torres Monzino reaching heights of over 8,200 feet (2,500 m).

The surrounding valley landscape is amplified with lakes and glaciers. Grey,

Pehoe, Nordenskjold, and Sarmiento are the most prominent lakes with Grey, Pingo, and Tyndall serving as the most significant glaciers. The Paine River is the primary river traversing through the national park.

Torres Del Paine features four distinct ecological zones which include Andean Desert, Magellanic subpolar forest, Pre-Andean shrub land, and Patagonian steppe. The area is home to cougars, foxes, guanacos, and Chilean Huemul. The national park also is a bird lover's paradise featuring 15 different birds of prey. The Andean condor is the pinnacle of the well-known species. The Chilean flamingo, Magellanic woodpecker, coscoroba swan, and Magellan goose are some of the other popular bird species.

Day 8, October 24rd: Torres Del Paine:

We will go to the east side of the park to reach the Basin of Paine River. Then we will go to El Salto Grande viewpoint where the waters of the Nordenskjold Lake flow into Pehoe lake, with imposing views of the Cuernos del Paine Mountain. Continuing on, we will have amazing views of Sarmiento Lake and the Patagonian steppe, a place inhabited with guanacos the smaller relative to the llamas, foxes and endemic birds. At the end, we will have a magnificent landscape view of Torres del Paine. We will return to the hotel to have lunch, then in the afternoon we will continue to the west arriving to the Grey Ranger Station. From here, we will start a hike of 1 hour to explore the Grey beach and see the Grey Glacier and some icebergs in the lake. We will hike back to the van which will take us to our hotel. Free time, rest, dinner at the hotel.

Day 9, October 25th: Torres Del Paine – Pto. Montt – Chiloe

We will drive for 1 1/2 hours to Puerto Natales, the southernmost city in Chile-

an Patagonia and the gateway to cruise in Antarctica. From here we will fly for 1 3/4 hours to Puerto Montt, we will drive to Pargua and take a ferry across the canal that separates Chile's mainland with Chiloe Island. From here we will drive for 2 1/2 hours to Castro the main city on the Island. After we will arrive, we can walk to the central park and enjoy the unique stilt architecture and the wooden churches, some of them declared World Heritage by UNESCO.

CHILOE

Chiloé Island (Spanish: Isla de Chiloé, locally known as Greater Island of Chiloé (Isla Grande de Chiloé), is the largest island (8,394 square kilometers (3,241 sq. mi) of the Chiloé Archipelago off the west coast of Chile in the Pacific Ocean. The island is part of southern Chile, in the Los Lagos Re-gion.

Chiloé Archipelago is unlike anywhere else in Chile. A land of myths and legends, beaches, penguins, and churches. Wild winds off the Pacific Ocean bat-ter the west coast beaches, hemmed in by sand dunes and a rugged land-scape home to feral Chilote ponies. Penguins breed on rocky outcrops, wad-ling around seals basking in the sunshine and only occasionally pestered by fiercely protective lapwings.

On the east coast, fishermen leave their palafito (stilt) homes, their tethered boats raised to the porch on the morning's high tide. Wooden churches stand large, looming and proud in villages seemingly too small to house congrega-tions large enough to fill them. And the myths and legends of the island run rampant throughout the dense fog surrounding the archipelago.

Chiloé's landscape is one of the most surprising aspects of any visit to the ar-

chipelago. Where the mainland to the east is mountainous and inhospitable, Chiloé is filled with rolling hills. This southern territory is one of the most inter-esting cultural, gastronomic and natural places in Chile.

Day 10, October 26th: Chiloé

Today we will explore the Island for most of the day, visiting picturesque villag-es and landscapes, getting up close to the local culture and history.

We will travel to the northeast until we reach the town of Dalcahue, to visit its typical artisan fair, as well as its church declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. We will cross by ferry to the island Quinchao and continue on to see its rural villages, its architecture, religiosity, folklore and local crafts. In the surrounding hills there are abundant viewpoints, such as the Alto de la Paloma, which offers beautiful views of Achao and its classic houses lined with larch tiles. Today we also enjoy the local gastronomy, having lunch in a typical seafood restaurant. Finally, we will find the largest Chilote traditional churches, and then we will arrive at the end of the island to the Chequian sector. From there we will start the trip back to our hotel in Castro. Free time to explore Castro by your own.

Day 11, October 27th: Chiloe – Pto Montt – Santiago

At 8:00am we will drive back to Puerto Montt airport to fly (1 3/4 hours) to Santiago, the capital of Chile, where we will arrive around 4 pm. Transfer to the Hotel Cumbres Lastarria to rest after a long travel day. The hotel is very comforta-ble and is located in a very nice bohemian neighborhood, with all kind of res-taurants, bars, shops.

Day 12, October 28th: Casa Blanca Valley Villard Vineyard- Santiago

Casablanca Valley, situated on the coastal plain between Santiago and Valparaíso is Chile's fastest growing wine region. This valley is relatively new to the wine industry with wine production beginning as late as the mid 1980s. As a young valley of premium wines, Casablanca Valley boasts a large number of modern cellars with the highest winemaking technology, many of them boutique wineries. Despite its late start in wine production, the Casablanca Valley has gained recognition in particular for the white wine production of splendid crisp Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, but also for some stunning reds such as Pinot Noir, Merlot and Syrah.

Casablanca Valley is one of the cooler wine regions in Chile. It has a Mediterranean climate similar to California's Sonoma and Napa counties. Soil and climate favors the production of top quality Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. The cold Humboldt Current runs off the coast, so the sea produces a cooling effect, with morning fog and low temperatures that are transmitted in the wines with bright acidity and fresh fruit. Cool misty nights and hot days provide excellent growing conditions.

We will visit the vineyards of Bodegas Villard Fine Wines, established in 1989 by Thierry Villard as Chile's first family premium boutique wine company. Over the last three decades, it has consistently been recognized as one of the best producers in the Casablanca Valley. Over the last decade, using the Valley's exceptional terroir and unique characteristics, the new generation has introduced innovative winemaking techniques to create new super premium wines of structure and elegance.

We will have lunch in the restaurant at the Vineyard.

We will head back to Santiago at the end of the day for our farewell dinner.

Our last night will be spent at the Hotel Cumbres Lastarria in Santiago.

Day 13, October 29th: Transfer to the Santiago Airport for international connections.

**Price: \$4,280 per person (double occupancy)
Single supplement: \$1,700**

Initial deposit of \$1000 will confirm your space. Second payment of \$2000 is due July 30th. Balance of \$1280 is due September 15th.

Reservations: All reservations are subject to availability. For information about how to reserve your space and make your deposit for the journey, please contact Linda Leyerle at lleyerle@aol.com. In Argentina, it is not possible to reserve rooms or park entrance fees without the traveler's passport information. Linda will give you details about how to get that to us. Time is of the essence so please respond as soon as possible if you are interested in this journey.

Cost includes: Private tour bus or van for travel during the journey, all the breakfasts, one lunch (on the Glaciers Cruise); one lunch and two dinners at Estancia Nibepo Aike. Hotels, transportation from airport/hotel/airport, in Buenos Aires, Calafate, Torres del Paine, Santiago, park entrance fees, local guide to share history and cultural information. Airfare for the flights - Buenos Aires-Calafate in Argentina and Puerto Natales to Pto. Montt and from there to Santiago in Chile.

Cost does NOT include: Roundtrip international airfare to Buenos Aires,

meals not noted above, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages, tips for the local guides and private bus driver, personal items, souvenirs. **To clarify: Only the meals mentioned in the previous paragraph are INCLUDED in the cost of this journey. The other meals are to be paid by each traveler.**

This journey is for individuals ready to have an educational/experiential experience. Persons with physical or psychiatric challenges may find this journey too difficult or uncomfortable. **We recommend a visit with your doctor at least 6 weeks in advance of departure. No immunizations are required unless you will be entering Chile or Argentina from a country with Yellow Fever – in which case you will need a Yellow Fever immunization and be prepared to show proof. You will be from sea level to 4,000 feet elevation.**

No visas are required for most people entering Argentina (US, Canadian, EU, Australia and New Zealand citizens). If you have questions about this, please let Linda know. Your passport must be valid at least 6 months after the date of your return (4/12/2022).

Once you have reserved your space, we will send you more information – packing lists, info about the country, etc. You will be fully prepared for the journey. Also, Linda is always available by email for any questions or concerns – whatever they may be.

Cancellations & Refunds: Due to availability of space on our journey and the time required to process trip reservations, **funds will not be refundable after June 15th, 2020. We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance in order to protect yourself in case extenuating circumstances force you to cancel your**

trip. There are many options to choose from on-line.

Responsibilities: ANDEAN PATHS reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a participant at any time, and to make changes in the itinerary whenever deemed necessary for the comfort, convenience, and safety of our participants, and to cancel a journey at any time. In the event a journey is cancelled, ANDEAN PATHS shall have no responsibility beyond the refund of monies paid to it by program participants as listed. By registering, the participant agrees that neither ANDEAN PATHS nor their affiliates shall be liable for any damages, loss or expense occasioned by any act or omission by any supplier providing services to any program participant. Reasons that Andean Paths might cancel a program include, but are not limited to, issues around safety due to impassable roads, protests in Argentina, or similar unforeseen events.