

THE BEAUTY OF ARGENTINIAN PATAGONIA AND THE CHILEAN WINE COUNTRY with Daniel Koupermann October 16th to the 28th 2021

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 here -- 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 down there. Beyond landscapes, the region's cowboys (called *gauchos* in Argentina and *baqueanos* in Chile) lend a certain air of romanticism. 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 16th: Arrival - Buenos Aires

You will be met at the airport and taken to the Hotel Own Grand Palermo Soho.

Day 2, October 17th: 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 leads you 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 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 18th: 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 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, has 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 19th: 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 20th: 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 in the Atlantic ocean coast. Each wagon train was formed by several wagons pulled by 18 animals (horses and mules).

Day 6, October 21st: Lake Argentino and Glacier Perito Moreno.

After breakfast we will ride for 1 hour to the Perito Moreno Glacier. 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).

We will follow the paths very close to the glacier where we will see different impressive views, and hear the constant ice breaking thunder around us. Our private van will take us back to El Calafate.

Day 7, October 22nd: Los Glaciares National Park, Uppsala and Spegazzini Glaciers

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

Sailing northwest on Lago Argentino, we will see Paraje Punta Bandera, Punta Avellaneda, Devil's mouth and Uppsala Glacier. Then we sail southward towards 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. Finally we will return back through Brazo Norte to the La Soledad dock. By van we will go 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.ft. 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 8, October 23rd: Calafate to Bariloche:

We will fly north to Bariloche and spend half a day exploring this interesting village. San Carlos de Bariloche (commonly called Bariloche) is a town in Argentina's Patagonia region, in the province of Rio Negro. Situated in the foothills of the Andes on the southern shores of Nahuel Huapi Lake, a large glacial lake. After development of extensive public works, the city emerged in the 1930s and 1940s as a major tourism center. Bariloche is known for its alpine-style architecture and its chocolate, sold in shops lining Calle Mitre, the main street. It has numerous restaurants and cafes, and is also a popular base for hiking and skiing the nearby mountains and the surrounding Lake District.

We will drive 45 minutes to Estancia Peuma Hue, check in to rest and enjoy our time here. Estancia Peuma Hue is an enchanting hotel and eco-lodge nestled within the grounds of the first and largest national park in Argentina, Nahuel Huapi National Park, in the Northern Patagonia Lake District. Peuma Hue's 500 acres of wilderness are located at the southern end of Lake Gutiérrez, only 45 minutes south from the town of Bariloche, The Estancia and boutique hotel provides a gorgeous setting to explore this part of the world. We can explore the impressive mountain scenery on horseback, or hiking on one of the numerous mountain trails that rise high above the estancia. Estancia Peuma Hue, means "the place of dreams" in the native Mapuche language. The hotel says "so many guests and visitors refer to this place as 'being in another world'".

Day 9, October 24th: Kayaking, horseback riding, or hiking?

Our kayak guides will give us a briefing about basic kayaking skills and safety instructions before launching the kayaks. Also we will be provided with kayaking equipment: life vest, spray skirt, dry bags, etc. The shimmering lakes and misty mountains of Argentina's lake lands look even more majestic when viewed from the water. We will take some breaks for photographing the wildlife, the spectacular landscapes, and relax our mind (and arms) in this paradise surrounded by the Andes in Northern Patagonia.

After lunch there will be free time to rest and enjoy the beauty of our hotel, or do horseback riding or hike in one of several trails around the property.

Day 10, October 25th: Andes Crossing/Bariloche to Puerto Varas (Chile)

The Cruce Andino is the mythical crossing through the Lagos Andinos Patagónicos (Andean Patagonian Lakes), which join Argentina and Chile. Through it, the native huilliches and mapuches traveled for over four centuries, leaving their mark on the legends of the area, and a history that will come back to life throughout this journey. The Cruce Andino gives us the opportunity to live an once-in-a-lifetime moment, surrounded by awe-inspiring scenery.

Departing from Puerto Pañuelo, on the Llao Llao peninsula, we'll sail for an hour through the most important branch of the Lago Nahuel Huapi. Have your camera ready for the best shots of the Islote Centinela (Centinela Island) resting place of Perito Francisco P. Moreno, father of the Argentinean National Parks. Also, be ready to be struck by the beauty of the Blanca (white) Waterfalls. Docking in Puerto Blest, we can tour the Bahía Blest (Blest Bay) and Rio Frías and its surprising and unusual green waters, which descend from the pure glaciers of Cerro Tronador.

From Puerto Blest, a bus takes us through the forest for a 15 minute drive. The bus follows the Lago Frías along a winding road with breathtaking scenery that leads to Puerto Alegre, on the bank of Lago Frías. Once there, we get on another boat and sail on the second lake for about 25 minutes up to Puerto Frías. In Puerto Frías we will go through immigration, preparing to leave Argentina and enter Chile. After completing all immigration and customs procedures, a 4x4 bus built especially for the mountain takes us to the highest point of the entire crossing to cross the international border with Chile. You'll see the unbeatable landscapes of the Selva Valdiviana up to Peulla.

Peulla is located at the heart of the Parque Nacional Vicente Pérez Rosales, and is without a doubt a place where nature and magic become one. The thousand-year-old forest and lush vegetation amazes all visitors with its stunning views, waterfalls, streams, lakes and variety of birds. We will have lunch in Peulla. After lunch, a boat will take us to Lago Todos los Santos, heading to Petrohue, where we'll travel by land again, visiting the Saltos de Petrohue.

Finally, following the Lago Llanquihue, we will arrive at the city of Puerto Varas. Transfer to the Hotel Cumbres Puerto Varas, dinner and rest.

Day 11, October 26th: Puerto Varas – Valparaiso

We will fly around noon to Santiago, the capital of Chile. From the airport we will drive to the city of Valparaiso on the shore of the Pacific Ocean. Check into Hotel Casa Galos.

Bohemian and colorful, Valparaiso's maze of hills has long inspired poets and writers. We will discover something new at every turn: a gem of a building, a remarkable art gallery or some little gastronomic 'find'. We will check out the crazy architecture of this World Heritage City, stroll along its narrow streets, climb its endless staircases, ride its historic funicular elevators and enjoy panoramic views from its lofty lookout points. The "Jewel of the Pacific", as Valparaiso is known, is also home to Chile's legislative Congress and the headquarters of the Chilean navy.

Walking City Tour: Valparaiso is well-known all over the world for its impressive architecture, and because it has been mentioned in world-famous books such as "Moby Dick" by Herman Melville. During our walking tour we will be able to experience the hilly old part of Valparaiso, as well as the impressive downtown section, and experience a ride on one of the amazing "ascensores" or funiculars (optional), some of them unique in the world. This tour has been designed for those who want to walk the town and want to "discover" Valparaiso more intimately (for the hilly part we will be in a van).

The city consists of two completely different sections, one of them known as "El Plan", referring to the lower part adjacent to the port area, after which we continue with a drive up the hillside where we find the other section, "Los Cerros". On some 42 hills we find a jumbled mass of fine mansions, tattered houses and shacks in utter confusion spread along the narrow streets. Our first stop will be at the promenade "Paseo 21 de Mayo". From here there is a superb view over the city and its bay. Next, we will descend to El Plan and we will pass the main

feature of this area which is the Sotomayor Square, dominated by the Naval Headquarters building and the impressive monument to the Heroes of Iquique.

From here we will cross the historical business center with office buildings on narrow streets strung along the edge of the bay. As we go along Prat Avenue, we will see ancient majestic buildings that once were banks such as Edwards and Cia. and the former Bank of London. Also notable is the Turri building, right at the end of the block, which has a very impressive clock on top. Other interesting buildings worth mentioning are the “El Mercurio” building, the oldest newspaper in Chile - still in operation, the Stock Exchange, and the Public Library.

We will continue through Plaza Victoria, which was the heart of social life during the 1880's. In front its possible to see the Cathedral, built between 1930 and 1950. Along the way we will have the opportunity to experience a ride on one of the most picturesque funiculars of Valparaiso (optional).

From here, we will take Alemania Avenue, the only one that crosses most of the Valparaiso hills. Climbing up hills, we will see the city from another point of view. We will reach “La Sebastiana” one of the museums of the Nobel Prize winner, Pablo Neruda. From here we will go to Cerro Alegre. If we are on schedule we will descend back to El Plan of Valparaiso on another “ascensor” (optional).

Dinner at local restaurant.

Day 12, October 27th: Casa Blanca Valley (Loma Larga and Emiliana Vineyards) - Santiago

Casablanca Valley, situated on the coastal plain between Santiago and Valparaiso is Chile's fastest growing wine region. This valley is relatively new to the wine industry with wine production beginning as late as the mid1980s. As a young valley of premium wines, Casablanca Valley boasts a large number of modern cellars with the highest winemaking technology, many of them boutiques wineries.

Despite it's late start 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 provides 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 innovating winemaking techniques to create new super premium wines of structure and elegance.

Back to Santiago at the end of the day, farewell dinner.

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

Day 13, October 28th: Transfer to the Santiago Airport for international connections.

Price: \$3,700 per person (double occupancy)

Single supplement: \$1,800

Initial deposit of \$1000 will confirm your space. Second payment of \$1000 is due June 15th. Balance of \$1700 is due August 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, one lunch and two dinners at Estancia Peuma Hue, one lunch with wine tasting at Villard vinyard. Hotels, tips for restaurants and hotels, transportation from airport/hotel/airport, in Buenos Aires, Calafate, Bariloche, Puerto Varas, Santiago, park entrance fees, local guide to share history and cultural information. Airfare for the flights - Buenos Aires-Calafate-Bariloche in Argentina and Puerto Varas-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 (28/02/2022).

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, 2021. 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.

