



YOUR GUIDE
TO PATAGONIA



AUSTRALIS
CAPE HORN & PATAGONIA

www.australis.com



Patagonia: the very name conjures images of impenetrable glaciers, towering mountains, ice fields, Penguin colonies and the 'End of the World', before freezing seas disappear towards the South Pole. Understanding this unique landscape just a little better, with this short guide, will make your Australis cruise and Patagonia adventure even more special.

THE GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF PATAGONIA



THE HIGHLIGHTS OF PATAGONIA

TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

For many, Torres del Paine National Park – with its hiking routes, horse-riding trails, kayaking tours and photo safaris – is one of the main highlights of South America, such is the landscape's poetic natural beauty. The whole region, which covers nearly 2,000sq km, is a UNESCO-protected biosphere, meaning this fairytale wonderland will remain untouched for the years to come. The main attractions of Torres del Paine include the iconic Cordillera and Los Cuernos del Paine Mountains, the French Valley, lakes Nordenskjöld and Pehoe plus the great Grey Glacier. Much wildlife exists here too, with Andean Condors, Black-disked Buzzard Eagles, Grey Foxes, wild Horses, Guanacos and even Pumas thriving throughout, despite the often-harsh conditions. From Punta Arenas or Puerto Natales, it's either a 4-hour or 1-hour 30-minute drive respectively to reach Torres del Paine.



THE PERITO MORENO GLACIER

The iconic Perito Moreno Glacier needs no introduction, as this famous natural wonder of Patagonia is so instantly recognisable from its much-photographed façade, some 5km wide, nearly 100m tall and covering an overall surface area larger than Buenos Aires! This awe-inspiring glacier can be admired from the public walkways set on the hill opposite, though boat trips will take you up to the ice cliff itself for an unforgettable perspective from the water. Most hotels are located at least 70km away, so visiting Perito Moreno is usually a full-day tour.



TIERRA DEL FUEGO WITH AUSTRALIS

Since Australis is the only explorative vessel of its type that journeys to the shores and fjords of this impressive Patagonian region, your experience will be as exclusive and intimate as such a pristine wilderness deserves.

PUNTA ARENAS

Punta Arenas is the southernmost city in Chile, an extreme place though one which today is home to over 100,000 people and, as well as tourism, has proud traditions in both farming and shipping. Punta Arenas has clutched Chile's Patagonian coastline since the 19th century, though earlier short-lived settlements around the region (including pirate hangouts) date back to the mid-1500s. The easiest way to get here is a direct flight from Santiago, taking 3 hours 20 minutes.

USHUAIA

Situated on Argentina's side of Patagonia, Ushuaia is referred to as the 'End of the World', and for good reason. Having once served as both a remote penal colony and naval base, today Ushuaia is best-known for its easy access to the wildlife and wonders of Patagonia, and a departure point for South Pole cruises, as well as that intriguing history. Experience it first-hand on a 19th century railway line that's still in operation.

CAPE HORN

Cape Horn is a wild, rocky outcrop situated roughly where the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans meet. As a result, it is not only remote and uninhabitable, but the seas around here are notoriously unforgiving, having claimed their share of shipwrecks over the years. When the weather is calm, Australis is the only expedition cruise that lands on Cape Horn to experience its unique atmosphere – it's an exciting, once-in-a-lifetime experience!

GLACIERS

What may live longest in the memory after your tour is your first sight of a great glacier, of which Patagonia has many. These solid walls of compacted ice never fail to take your breath away, so we'll be sure to visit as many as possible both from the comfort of the Australis ship though also up close in a Zodiac boat. It can depend on weather conditions, but Condor, Garibaldi, Pia and Aguila Glaciers are all commonly sighted.

PENGUINS

Ever-popular, loveable and rarely seen in the wild, witnessing a Penguin colony enjoying their natural habitat is always a true privilege. Colonies of Magellan Penguins can be observed during your Australis cruise, occasionally while cruising though more likely during planned stops at Tucker and Magdalena Islands. Cameras at the ready, as if you're lucky enough to see them, it'll be a real highlight of the trip!



ESSENTIAL PACKING LIST

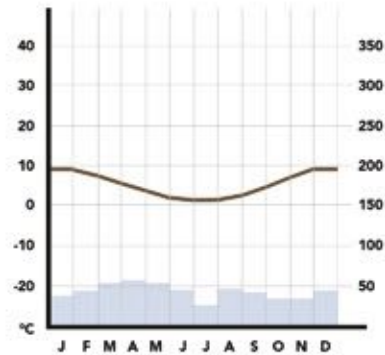
- WATERPROOF HIKING BOOTS/SHOES
- WATERPROOF TROUSERS
- WATERPROOF AND WINDPROOF JACKET
- WARM, WATERPROOF GLOVES
- WARM JUMPER
- A CAP OR BEANIE HAT
- SUNGLASSES
- SUN CREAM



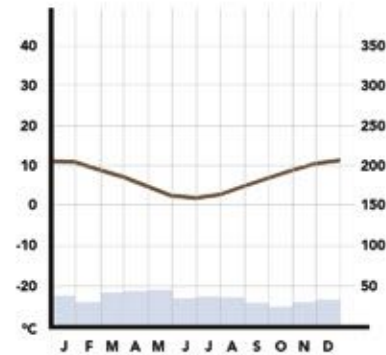
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Temperature and average rainfall.

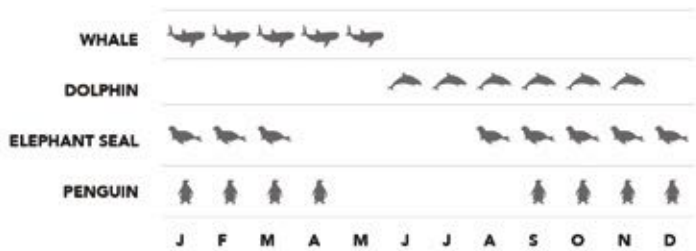
USHUAÏA



PUNTA ARENAS

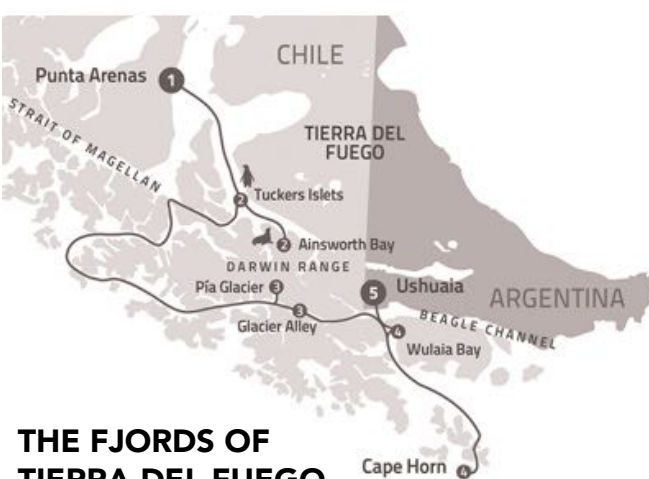


FLORA & FAUNA



From Red and Grey Foxes to Dolphins, Sea Lions and Penguins; nesting sea birds, coastal shrubland and occasional forested plains; there's more wildlife here than you may expect, and we strive for you to experience it all.

Australis itineraries



THE FJORDS OF TIERRA DEL FUEGO

PUNTA ARENAS - USHUAIA 4 NIGHTS

M/V Stella Australis
M/V Ventus Australis as of 2018

Day 1: Punta Arenas

Check-in between 1pm and 5pm in Punta Arenas.
Boarding at 6pm.

Day 2: Ainsworth Bay - Tuckers Islets

Start as you mean to go on with a picturesque navigation through the Almirantazgo Sound, towards Ainsworth Bay and the Marinelli Glacier. Here, your knowledgeable guide will explain how life began to emerge and adapt across the region as polar ice caps retreated, something that can be seen as you then voyage to the Tucker Islets, home to Magellan Penguin and Cormorant colonies. These beautiful creatures are best admired from a Zodiac boat, ideal for cruising the coast.

NOTE: In September and April this excursion is replaced with a glacier-trekking expedition in Brookes Bay.

Day 3: Pía Glacier - Glacier Alley

A true highlight of any Tierra del Fuego cruise today, as you take the scenic trek to a viewpoint overlooking Della Pía Glacier; a 20km-long block of solid ice. Next, enjoy the remarkable experience of cruising down 'Glacier Alley'.

Day 4: Cape Horn - Wulaia Bay

Navigating the Murray Channel and Nassau Bay, your next eagerly anticipated destination is the Cape Horn National Park, known for both its remote walking trails and temperamental weather! From here, it's on to historic Wulaia Bay where Charles Darwin visited in 1833 though native Yamana Canoeists had settled many years before.

Day 5: Ushuaia

This morning, arrive at Ushuaia – the capital of Tierra del Fuego and southernmost city in the world – as your Patagonian cruise draws to a close. Disembark at around 8.30am and enjoy some leisure time around Ushuaia until your onward flight.



Luciano Galvez,
Expedition guide for English and German customers onboard
the Ventus Australis, for excursions and lectures onboard.



PATAGONIAN EXPLORER

USHUAIA - PUNTA ARENAS 4 NIGHTS

M/V Ventus Australis
M/V Stella Australis

Day 1: Ushuaia

Check-in between 10am and 5pm in Ushuaia.
Boarding at 6pm.

Day 2: Cape Horn - Wulaia Bay

Navigating the Murray Channel and Nassau Bay, your first eagerly anticipated destination is the Cape Horn National Park, known for both its remote walking trails and temperamental weather! From here, it's on to historic Wulaia Bay where Charles Darwin visited in 1833 though native Yamana Canoeists had settled many years before.

Day 3: Pía Glacier - Porter Glacier

A true highlight of any Tierra del Fuego cruise today, as you take the scenic trek to a viewpoint overlooking Della Pía Glacier; a 20km-long block of solid ice. In the afternoon and aboard our Zodiac boats, we will sail between high rocky walls until we reach Porter Glacier.

Day 4: Agostini Sound - Águila Glacier - Cóndor Glacier

Day four of this explorational tour will see you sail through the Cockburn Channel and Agostini Sound, a dramatic backdrop of imposing peaks and glaciers descending down the Darwin Mountain Range. Disembark and enjoy a quintessential Patagonian experience, first visiting a lagoon formed from the meltwaters of nearby Águila Glacier, then a Zodiac boat ride around the so-called 'Condor Glacier', named after the abundance of Giant Andean condors which are known to inhabit this area. The vast landscapes explored today are some of the most memorable in all of Tierra del Fuego.

Day 5: Magdalena Island - Punta Arenas

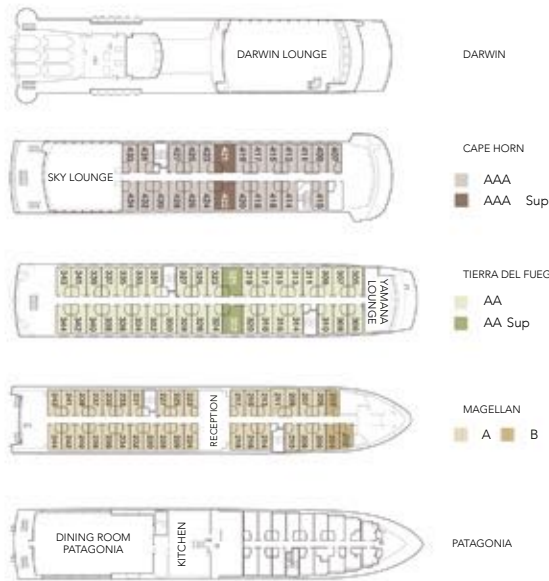
An early morning expedition today will see you landing near Magdalena Island to visit a large colony of the ever-endearing Magellan Penguins. Witnessing these lovable creatures thriving in their natural habitat is a joy, so be sure to have your cameras fully charged on this day, before disembarking at Punta Arenas at around 11.30am.

NOTE: In September and April this excursion will be replaced with a visit to Marta Island, known for its large population of South American Sea Lions, a delight to behold.



Enzo Mardones,
Expedition guide for English and German customers onboard
the Stella Australis, for excursions and lectures onboard.





STELLA & VENTUS AUSTRALIS

The purpose-built vessels Stella Australis and Ventus Australis are ideal for discovering the fjords of Patagonia. Onboard, the décor in each of the 100 cabins is low-key though comfortable, while spacious lounge areas and observation decks let the stunning landscape and views do the talking.

Year of construction:
Stella Australis: 2010 - Ventus Australis: 2017
Number of cabins: 100
Capacity: 210 passengers



LIFE ON BOARD

Your all-inclusive experience with us here at Australis is one of fine gastronomy, relaxing in the lounge bar or learning more about the wildlife of Patagonia during one of our interesting onboard seminars. We are extremely proud of our heritage here at Australis, so like to celebrate it through the food we serve, all of which is seasonal, typical of Patagonia and often washed down with a glass of Malbec or Carmenere – the two wines distinctive of both Chile and Argentina!

Then, between this and the exciting daily excursions, you always have your cosy cabin to retreat to. No matter which category you choose to stay in, all Australis cabins come with panoramic windows to enjoy the ever-changing view, comfy double or twin beds, en suite bathrooms and a few essential mod-cons. In our larger AAA cabins, those windows extend from floor to ceiling, so the stunning scenery outside is always in sight.

There is no internet connection on board, nor television. Enjoy a digital detox!

FAQ

Q. What's included during my trip?

A. All excursions, activities, meals and drinks – including from the bar. Tips (we recommend US\$15 per day), satellite phone calls and any purchases made from the onboard boutique are not included.

Q. Do I pay the port tax?

A. Yes, this will be charged at the time of booking.

Q. When does the ship arrive in Punta Arenas?

A. The ship aims to arrive in Punta Arenas at 11.30am. Be careful with your subsequent flight timings however, as there is a possibility that we might be held up by adverse weather conditions and the airport is 30 minutes away from the port.

Q. What is the dress code onboard?

A. As relaxed as you like – if you are happy and comfortable then so are we!

Q. How do I pay for extras while aboard?

A. We take Visa and Mastercard payments, as well as Euros and Chilean Pesos.



Q. Do I need an entry visa for Chile or Argentina?

A. Those with a EU passport do not need a visa for Chile or Argentina, however we always recommend that you seek the up to date advice of your own foreign office.

Q. Are transfers included in the cruise?

A. Sadly not, these will have to be arranged separately.

Q. Can I rent boots and other equipment on the ship?

A. No, we advise you bring everything you need with you as it is not available for rent onboard.

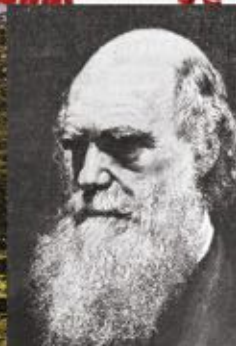
Q. Will my cabin have a view and balcony?

A. All Australis cabins come with panoramic windows for you to see the wonderful scenes outside, no balcony.



THE HISTORY OF PATAGONIAN TRAVEL

Like the pioneering explorers before us, each Australis cruise will see you sail through some of the world's most remote landscapes. From Charles Darwin to Captain Fitz Roy, or daring Ferdinand Magellan whose intrepid travels led him here some 500 years ago; there is a historic sense of adventure in Patagonia that only adds to its mystical allure.





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