

Antarctica21

PATAGONIA & CHILEAN FJORDS

9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

Reverse itinerary

- A wilderness experience in Southern Chile
- San Rafael Glacier
- Visit Puerto Eden
- Tierra del Fuego
- Glacier Alley along the Beagle Channel

Day 1 / Ushuaia, Embarkation

Your journey begins in Ushuaia, Argentina, with boarding between 3 and 4 PM (15:00 – 16:00 hr.) We will make a brief technical stop in Port Williams to comply with Chilean customs and immigration requirements before proceeding along the Beagle Channel.

Day 2 / Beagle Channel

Today we sail along the Beagle Channel, a striking narrow passage in the archipelago of Tierra del Fuego, a region named after the fires that burned in local native settlements when the first European explorers arrived. It partly belongs to Chile and partly to Argentina. We will sail along Glacier Alley, home to a family of five glaciers: the Holanda, Italia, Francia, Alemania, and Romanche glaciers. We hope to explore the Garibaldi Fjord where we will be surrounded by hanging and tidewater glaciers; nearby waterfalls are so close they can almost be touched. Spectacular ice formations are sprawled along the sea, forming part of the Southern Patagonian Ice field and the snow-dusted Darwin Range. It is a perfect time to enjoy the graceful view and, if possible, get a glimpse of sea lions and steamer ducks.

The Beagle Channel, with the Strait of Magellan to the north and the Drake Passage to the south, is one of the three navigable passages in South America connecting the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

Day 3 / Strait of Magellan and Tierra del Fuego

While cruising along the Strait of Magellan, we explore the waters of the fjords that branch out from Tierra del Fuego. We follow the remote coast around the Francisco Coloane Marine Park, a protected area in the southern hemisphere where whales feed. If you are lucky, you may be able to witness Humpback or Sei whales breaching in the distance. You may also see dolphins, sea lions, seals, penguins, albatrosses, and petrels.



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Day 4 / Madre de Dios Island

We continue sailing north towards Madre de Dios Island, part of an uninhabited archipelago west of the Trinidad Channel and Concepción Channel. The island is composed partly of limestone, with several natural caves that create a unique landscape evocatively named Marble Glaciers. In one of those caves, skeletons of whales 2600 to 3500 years old have been discovered. Many caves near the coast were used in the past as burial sites by the Kawéskar people. The whole region is an ideal place for exploration.

Day 5 / Puerto Eden

On our way north, we call at the famous fishing village of Puerto Eden, one of Chile's most isolated settlements. The village sits on the eastern side of Wellington Island and is only accessible by sea. Puerto Eden has no roads. Instead, a network of wooden boardwalks connects the houses and establishments. Rich evergreens cover the landscape steeped in indigenous traditions and culture, being home to the Kawéskar people. Shortly after leaving Puerto Eden, we sail through the dramatic, 18 mt-wide English Narrows.

Day 6 / Gulf of Penas

We cross the Gulf of Penas, enjoying beautiful views of the surrounding mountain ranges. As we continue to sail northward, the expedition team tells you about the indigenous inhabitants of these southern lands, the early Spanish colonizers, and famous explorers such as Charles Darwin, Fitz Roy, and Alberto de Agostini. You also learn about the region's biodiversity with presentations on the local marine life and flora.

Day 7 / San Rafael

The expedition continues with a full day of activities planned at San Rafael Bay. Declared a Biosphere Reserve, the park is the main entry point to Chile's Northern Icefields. San Rafael Glacier is the main attraction, but we will also enjoy exploring the surrounding fjords, channels, islands, and coves.

Day 8 / Puerto Cisnes

We continue to head north to the village of Puerto Cisnes, in the remote region of Aysén, for an afternoon visit. We visit the seaport and explore the area, with its many fjords, islands, and channels. We hope to visit Magdalena Island, where we have a good chance of seeing penguins, cormorants, sea lions, and river otters.

Day 9 / Puerto Montt, Disembarkation

Morning arrival in Puerto Montt and disembarkation.