Alumni Association
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER
ROAMINGBUFFS

Duration
12 days

Activity Level
Active Travel

Journey Type
Land

Chilean Wonders ~ Lake District & Patagonia

February 4-16, 2027

Starting from $6,545/pp

Your next adventure begins in beguiling Chile, where each region of this slender country reveals fascinating contrasts. Relish the lively ambience and tantalizing cuisine of sophisticated Santiago. In the breathtaking Lake District , see penguins in their natural habitat near Chiloé Island , cruise on stunning Lake Todos los Santos and savor a traditional Patagonian barbecue . In southern Chile, be awed by fabled glaciers and the grandeur of Torres del Paine , one of the world's greatest national parks.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Chilean Wonders | Lake District & Patagonia

Air Program: 13 days/11 nights (includes up to 2 air nights)

Land Program: 11 days/10 nights

Breakfasts: 10 | Lunches: 6 | Dinners: 4 | Receptions: 1

B | L | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.
A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.

This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.

This ACTIVE program is designed for people in good health who can comfortably maintain a demanding daily schedule of physical activities. The itinerary may feature full days of ongoing activities. Excursions on this program require:

- walking distances of up to 3–5 miles; stand 3+ hours
- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches
- climbing in and out of excursion boats
- tolerating varied climate conditions, including high altitude and humidity

Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1 | Depart gateway city
AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Santiago, Chile. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: SCL.

Day 2 | Santiago, Chile

Hotel Cumbres Lastarria

R | D
Arrive at Comodoro Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport. Proceed through immigration and then to the baggage claim area to retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the designated meeting spot, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you. The location will be provided with your final documents.

Transfer to the Hotel Cumbres Lastarria. Please note, if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

Step into Santiago's vibrant cultural heart in the historic Lastarria neighborhood, a charming, artsy enclave where cobblestone streets wind past cafés, galleries and boutique shops. This district is anchored by landmarks such as the Museo de Bellas Artes, overlooking the leafy expanse of Parque Forestal, and the GAM, a dynamic performing arts center named for Chile's Nobel laureate poet Gabriela Mistral. The area hums with creativity, a lively introduction to the city's artistic and intellectual spirit.

Those arriving early can join the Travel Director for a brief orientation walk around the hotel area, taking in the neighborhood's unique character, vibrant murals and inviting plazas.

Enrichment: Chilean History. Engage in a discussion tracing Chile's journey from a predominantly indigenous population, including the Incas, through Spanish conquest and colonial rule, to the eventual independence achieved in the 19th century. This session provides context and insight to enrich your experiences throughout the journey.

In the evening, gather with fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception and Dinner at the hotel. Meet and mingle as you toast to the adventure ahead, sampling Chilean cuisine in a warm, convivial atmosphere.

Day 3 | Santiago

Hotel Cumbres Lastarria

B

A full breakfast buffet will be offered daily at every hotel throughout the program.

Santiago. Begin a panoramic tour of Santiago, a city of striking contrasts and energetic spirit. Pass by the neoclassical Palacio de la Moneda, the presidential palace built in 1805 and site of the 1973 coup d'état against President Salvador Allende. See the palm-lined Plaza de Armas, a bustling hub since 1541, flanked by the Central Post Office, National History Museum and Metropolitan Cathedral, and the shaded promenades of Parque Forestal, where fountains tinkle and sculptures punctuate the green spaces, offering a tranquil counterpoint to the city's pace.

Pause for a guided walk through Bellavista, Santiago's artistic heart, alive with cafés, galleries, theaters and bars. Streets glimmer with colorful murals, graffiti and whimsical sculptures that breathe life into the neighborhood. Walk along Dardignac Street, where vibrant street art captures both tradition and rebellion, and glimpse La Chascona, Pablo Neruda's former home, its walls echoing the poet's passion for Chile and the world.

Continue to the La Moneda Cultural Center sector for a brief visit to a Chilean crafts store, followed by a visit to the Museo Chileno de Arte Precolombino. A guided tour of the "Chile before Chile" exhibition immerses you in the artistry, history and spiritual life of pre-Columbian Central and South America, from intricately carved artifacts to ceremonial objects imbued with cultural meaning.

Return to the Plaza de Armas for lunch on your own.

Maipo Valle Winery. After lunch, journey to the Maipo Valley for a visit to Cousiño-Macul, a traditional Chilean winery founded in 1856 and still owned and operated by the founding family. Take in sun-dappled vineyards, hear the story of the estate-grown grapes, and watch as vintages are transformed into wine. Taste the distinctive Chilean varietals, each sip reflecting the region's terroir and generations of winemaking heritage.

Enrichment: Contemporary Chile. Back in Santiago, join a discussion on contemporary Chile to explore how history has shaped the nation's modern identity.

Conclude the day with dinner at leisure. Your Travel Director can suggest local favorites, from empanadas bursting with meat, cheese or seafood, to pastel de choclo, a comforting corn pudding infused with savory flavors. Raise a glass of pisco sour, the classic cocktail of grape brandy, lemon and egg white, or a chilled Borgoña, a red wine kissed with strawberries, as the city's night lights twinkle around you.

Day 4 | Santiago | Puerto Montt | Puerto Varas

Radisson Hotel Puerto Varas

B | L | D

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to the Santiago airport for your flight to Puerto Montt.

AHI Connects: Calbuco & Authentic Curanto Lunch. Arrive in Puerto Montt and board a deluxe motor coach for a scenic drive framed by the towering Andes and the glimmering waters of the Los Lagos Region. Arrive in Calbuco, a quiet fishing village on the eastern shore of the Reloncaví Sound. Take a gentle stroll through the town, observing colorful houses, bobbing fishing boats and the rhythm of daily life. Gather for a traditional curanto lunch, a centuries-old Chilote feast. Hot stones are laid in a shallow pit, layered with fresh seafood, meats, and vegetables, then covered with broad nalca leaves (similar to European rhubarb) to slowly steam. The mingling aromas of sea and earth create a sensory introduction to the cuisine of southern Chile.

Continue by deluxe motor coach to the Radisson Hotel Puerto Varas, on the shore of Lake Llanquihue with sweeping views of the Osorno and Calbuco volcanoes.

Settle into your room and then join your Travel Director for a short orientation walk through the town, known for its German-inspired architecture and lakeside promenade.

Gather for dinner at the hotel, enjoying the rich flavors of southern Chile in an inviting atmosphere.

Day 5 | Chiloé Island

Radisson Hotel Puerto Varas

B | L

Chiloé Island. Depart the hotel for Pargua, where a ferry carries you across the Chacao Channel to Chiloé Island. The crossing reveals rolling emerald hills, shadowed forests and wild coastline dotted with palafitos, colorful wooden stilt houses that appear to float above the tide. Disembark at Chacao and meander through the modest square, Plaza de Chacao, where village life unfolds at an unhurried pace. Visit the Iglesia San Antonio de Chacao, a graceful wooden church that blends Jesuit mission design with local craftsmanship — its shingled facades, slender towers and hand-hewn interiors radiating warmth.

Continue to Puñihuil, where a small boat navigates to rocky islets alive with seabirds. Witness Magellanic and Humboldt penguins nesting side by side, one of the few places on earth where these species coexist. The Magellanic, with its black back and white belly, was first recorded by Ferdinand Magellan in 1519. The Humboldt, smaller in size and marked by pink eye and bill patches, darts through the water at remarkable speed. Boats keep a respectful distance, allowing binoculars or zoom lenses to bring the scene closer.

Return to shore for lunch at a local restaurant.

The Museum of the Churches of Chiloé. Travel to Ancud on Chiloé's northwest coast to visit the Museo de las Iglesias de Chiloé, housed in a former wooden church. Explore scale models and original architectural elements, from weathered doors to timber beams, which reveal the artistry of 17th-century Chilotan builders. These wooden sanctuaries, constructed along the famed Ruta de la Iglesia, embody tangible craftsmanship and the island's spiritual heritage.

Free Time: Take a short stroll through Ancud, just enough to soak in the town's coastal charm. Pause at the waterfront to watch fishing boats drift across the calm waters of the Chiloé Strait, pass by the nearby markets where artisans display traditional crafts and fresh seafood, and snap a few photos of the historic Fuerte San Antonio overlooking the harbor.

Return to Pargua for the ferry and your onward return journey to Puerto Varas.

The evening is yours to relax and select your own dinner, either at the hotel or in one of Puerto Varas' charming restaurants. Options include fresh lake trout, traditional Patagonian stews or light bites in café settings overlooking the water.

Day 6 | Petrohué River Falls | Lake Todos los Santos

Radisson Hotel Puerto Varas

B | L

Petrohué River Falls & Lake Todos los Santos. Drive through Chile's stunning Región de los Lagos and stop to witness the turquoise torrents of Petrohué River Falls. Continue to Todos los Santos Lake and take a 30-minute boat cruise across Lake Todos los Santos, surrounded by the snowcapped Puntiagudo-Cordón Cenizos volcano chain.

Patagonian Barbecue Lunch. Stop in Ensenada Village for a traditional Patagonian barbecue, featuring lamb, potatoes, salads, sopaipillas and Chilean pebre, accompanied by a local dessert and wine.

Return to the hotel in Puerto Varas following lunch.

Enrichment: The History of Patagonia. Participate in an enrichment discussion on the history of Patagonia, exploring the southernmost reaches of Chile and Argentina.

Dinner is at leisure. Explore local dining options, sampling regional specialties and enjoying the serene evening views of the lake and volcanoes.

Day 7 | Puerto Varas | Puerto Montt | Punta Arenas

Hotel Cabo de Hornos

B | L

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to the Puerto Montt airport for your flight to Punta Arenas.

Nao Victoria Museum. Upon arrival in Punta Arenas, enjoy a guided visit to the Museo Interactivo Nao Victoria, a floating museum celebrating the era of Magellan's circumnavigation. Step aboard the full-scale replica, explore interactive exhibits and view navigation instruments and historical artillery. See other notable replicas, including the James Caird, a 22-foot lifeboat from Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic expedition; the schooner Ancud, involved in the 1843 expedition that claimed the Strait of Magellan for Chile; and the HMS Beagle, the Royal Navy brig-sloop that carried Charles Darwin on his voyage to the Galapagos archipelago from 1831 to 1836.

Mirador Cerro de la Cruz. Climb to the Hill of the Cross Viewpoint, where lovely vistas stretch over the city below, its colorful rooftops and bustling harbor framed by Patagonian plains, the twisting waters of the Strait of Magellan and the snowcapped mountain peaks beyond.

Walk to a nearby restaurant to relish authentic Patagonian fare.

Free Time: Take a short walk through Muñoz Gamero Square, the historic heart of Punta Arenas. Watch street performers, browse artisan stalls and admire the iconic statue of Ferdinand Magellan. This lively square offers a snapshot of the city's maritime heritage and local character.

Check in to the Hotel Cabos de Hornos, centrally located for easy exploration of the city.

The evening is yours to choose a restaurant for dinner. Options include traditional Patagonian seafood, grilled meats and local specialties, allowing you to experience the region's flavors at your own pace.

Day 8 | Punta Arenas | Puerto Natales

Hotel Costaustralis

B | D

After breakfast, relish some time at leisure in Punta Arenas and lunch on your own, before transferring by deluxe motor coach to Puerto Natales.

Upon arrival in Puerto Natales, check in to the Hotel Costaustralis on the shores of the sparkling Última Esperanza Sound.

Settle into your room and rejoin your fellow travelers for a relaxing dinner at the hotel tonight.

Day 9 | Bernardo O'Higgins National Park

Hotel Costaustralis

B | L

Fjord Cruise, Glaciers & National Park Walk. Cruise the Última Esperanza Fjord to Bernardo O'Higgins National Park, passing rugged mountains, waterfalls and Patagonian wildlife. As you approach Mount Balmaceda, an awe-inspiring sight comes into view: the 2,035-meter-high hanging glacier spilling down its cliffs in blue ribbons of ice, its fractured surface glinting in the southern light. The cascade of frozen mass tumbles toward the fjord, where icebergs drift like silent sentinels on the steel-gray water. From here, take a 20-minute walk along a trail through mossy forests and open meadows to reach the Serrano Glacier, where a jagged wall of blue and white ice towers above a milky lagoon strewn with floating icebergs. Those who prefer a more leisurely option can remain at the viewpoint for sweeping vistas of this frozen wonder.

Patagonian Ranch Lunch. Stop at a local ranch for a hearty, traditional Patagonian lunch.

Cruise back to Puerto Natales and return to the hotel.

Free Time: Optional strolls around town or along the Costanera de Natales offer views of snowcapped peaks and black-necked swans.

Dinner is at your leisure tonight.

Day 10 | Torres del Paine National Park

Hotel Costaustralis

B | L

Torres del Paine National Park. Spectacular, wild scenery awaits you on a scenic drive through this acclaimed 935-square-mile national park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The astonishing landscape encompasses turquoise lakes, sculptural icebergs, rolling valleys and snowcapped summits that rise above the steppe. Stop for short walks along the way to witness unforgettable views, including the bright blue glacial Lago Gray, where immense slabs of ice drift across the water, glistening in the light like fractured crystal. Marvel at the dramatic Horns of Paine, jagged granite peaks cloaked in clouds, and pause at Salto Grande, a thundering waterfall that pours with unstoppable force from Lake Nordenskjöld into Lake Pehoé.

An abundance of wildlife adds to the allure: tawny guanacos grazing the plains, gray and red foxes darting between rocks, the endangered huemul deer hidden in the forest, and the elusive puma, master of this wild terrain. Above, Andean condors ride thermals on outstretched wings, while Lesser Rheas — ostrich-like birds — race across the open grasslands.

Stop for lunch together at the Hotel Lago Grey, located within the park. Savor regional specialties while taking in the crisp Patagonian air and the vast, untamed landscape that stretches in every direction. After lunch, visit the Interpretation Center to deepen your understanding of the park's geology, flora, fauna and conservation efforts.

Pause for a few photo stops along the return journey to Puerto Natales, capturing the light on the mountains, lakes and wildlife one last time.

Free Time: Back in Puerto Natales, relish an evening at leisure. Stroll along the waterfront promenade, taking in the views of the sound and the distant snowcapped peaks, or through the town's streets, dotted with colorful corrugated-metal buildings, artisan shops and cozy cafés.

Dinner is at your own pace, so you can savor local flavors.

Day 11 | Puerto Natales | Santiago

Hotel Cumbres Lastarria

B | D

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and depart for the Puerto Natales airport for your flight back to Santiago.

Upon arrival in Santiago, transfer and check in to the Hotel Cumbres Lastarria.

This evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a Farewell Dinner at the hotel. Share stories and highlights from your Chilean adventure, reflecting on the landscapes, wildlife and cultural encounters that have shaped this unforgettable journey. Toast to memories that will linger long after your return home.

Day 12 | Santiago | Depart for gateway city

B

Free Time: If you are not joining the Elective Activity, the day is yours to further explore Santiago at your own pace. Stroll through charming streets, revisit favorite cafés or browse local shops before transferring to the airport for your departure flight in the early evening.

Elective Activity: Viña del Mar and Valparaíso. * Venture to picturesque Viña del Mar, a favored Chilean retreat celebrated for its broad beaches, manicured gardens and ocean breezes. Continue to the colorful port city of Valparaíso, a UNESCO World Heritage site founded in the 16th century. Wander through historic Victoria and Sotomayor squares, then climb the cerros, hills crowded with a jumble of colorful houses, winding stairways and quaint funiculars. Explore the streets adorned with bold murals and street art, capturing the city's eclectic spirit. Ride a funicular to the hilltop for sweeping vistas and the chance to visit La Sebastiana, Pablo Neruda's uniquely decorated home. Pause at a local café or restaurant for lunch before returning to Santiago late this afternoon. Available at an additional cost.

*Important Note: Travelers who are continuing on the Elective Atacama Post-Program extension will not be able to participate in the Elective Activity, as the flight to Calama departs while this Elective Activity is still underway.

Early this evening, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for the Santiago airport for your return flights home. Your Travel Director will provide the details.

Depending upon flight schedules, some travelers may arrive home today.

Day 13 | In Transit | Arrive in gateway city

Most flights arrive home today.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

What's Included

Program Overview

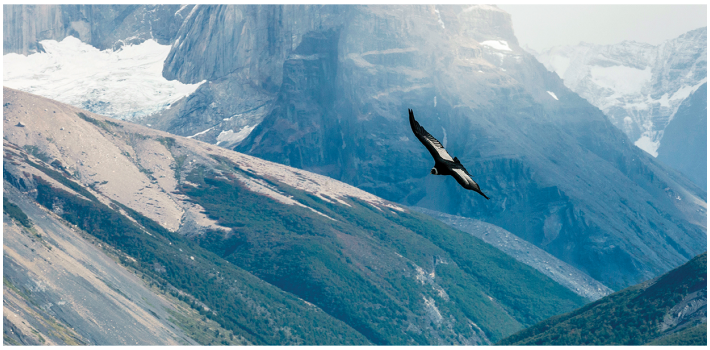
- Small group: Sized just right at 28 guests.
- 3 nights in Santiago, Chile, at the first-class Hotel Cumbres Lastarria.
- 3 nights in Puerto Varas at the first-class Radisson Hotel Puerto Varas.
- 1 night in Punta Arenas at the first-class Hotel Cabo de Hornos.
- 3 nights in Puerto Natales at the first-class Hotel Costaustralis.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Meal Program

- 10 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 4 dinners and 1 reception.
- Welcome and Farewell Dinners to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

On-site Features

- Flights and deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program with baggage handling.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Elective activities to pursue your individual interests.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.



FlexAir Travel Program

Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.

Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

Hotel Cumbres Lastarria

Located in Santiago's vibrant Lastarria district, Hotel Cumbres Lastarria places you steps from an eclectic mix of restaurants, boutiques, galleries and cultural landmarks. Its premier setting invites exploration on foot, from leafy plazas and lively cafés to museums and the funicular rising to Cerro San Cristóbal's panoramic views. Savor Patagonian-inspired dishes at Punto Ocho with city vistas, then unwind at the casual Tapas Bar with artisanal drinks and light bites in a relaxed atmosphere.

Tripadvisor

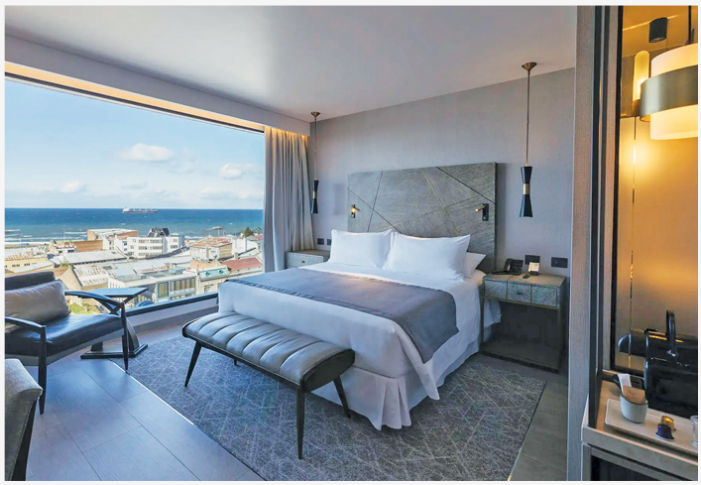
Hotel Costa Australis

Located in the heart of southern Patagonia, Hotel Costa Australis commands a timeless waterfront presence on the shores of Último Esperanza Bay in Puerto Natales. Its elegant, chateau-like architecture and warm, locally inspired décor reflect the spirit of the region, welcoming travelers to an atmosphere of calm and contemplation with panoramic fjord and mountain views. Accommodations are thoughtfully appointed, and the hotel's restaurant and bar feature Patagonian specialties, artisan cocktails, an excellent wine list and vistas of the sea.

Tripadvisor

Hotel Cabo de Hornos

Situated in the heart of Punta Arenas, Hotel Cabo de Hornos presents a striking modernist façade overlooking Plaza Muñoz Gamero and the Strait of Magellan. Avant-garde public spaces of glass and stone blend historic character with contemporary design, while inviting guest rooms showcase rich Patagonian woods. The Faro Lounge offers sweeping views alongside internationally inspired Patagonian cuisine. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



Tripadvisor

Radisson Hotel Puerto Varas

A delightfully comfortable stay awaits you along the shores of Lake Llanquihue in the heart of Puerto Varas. Admire stunning views of the Calbuco and Osorno volcanoes across the water in the distance, and check out the town's charming architecture influenced by 19th-century settlers from Germany and Austria. Restaurants, cafes and shops are conveniently within walking distance of the hotel. You'll enjoy friendly, attentive service from the accommodating staff and spacious, inviting rooms in which to unwind after an exciting day of exploring.

Tripadvisor

Pricing

Trip Price (USD)

Base Price	**$6,545**
You Pay	**$6,545 per person**

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; U.S. government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is $1000.00 per person. To view Program Terms and conditions please click here. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

*Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 120+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.

Viña del Mar
Valparaíso
Santiago
South Pacific Ocean
Petrohué River Falls
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Elective