The Natural Gems and Luxury Lodges of Patagonia
March 22 to April 2, 2020
with Donald Pfister
On this exclusive HBS journey, embark on a captivating 12-day journey through the vast, pristine wilderness of Patagonia. After touring the vibrant metropolis of Santiago, head south to Chile’s Patagonian Lake District, a region of snow-capped volcanoes, crystal clear lakes and mystic forests. Your first stop will be Pucón and the lovely Vira Vira lodge. Choose from tailor-made adventures such as trekking in a national park, horseback riding with a Chilean huaso (cowboy), white-water rafting on the Trancura River, kayaking on Lake Tinquilco, or mountain biking to the foot of the Villarrica Volcano. Travel onward to the Hotel AWA, perched along the sparkling shoreline of Lake Llanquihue, just outside of Puerto Varas. Enjoy a private excursion to Petrohué Falls and explore Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park. Finally, head to Puerto Natales, gateway to Patagonia’s crown jewel, Torres del Paine National Park, set amid monolithic granite spires, azure colored lakes, and glaciers. The Singular Patagonia lodge offers a comfortable base from which to choose from a number of excursions both in and surrounding the park including a boat trip to massive glaciers, spectacular kayaking, horseback riding, bird-watching, and biking.

Activity Level 3: 🐪 Riding 🚴‍♂️ Mountain biking

A LITTLE MORE TO IT
This is a moderately active to active program, depending on which activity options guests select. Excursions can be tailored to guests’ specific interests and fitness levels. Hikes of different mileage and duration are offered. Activities include trekking, mountain biking, kayaking, birdwatching, horseback riding, boat navigation of glaciers (southern Patagonia) and white-water rafting (Lake District).

TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL

Donald H. Pfister is the Asa Gray Professor of Systematic Botany and Curator of the Farlow Library and Herbarium of Cryptogamic Botany. His research centers on the biology and systematics of fungi and he also studies the history of collections and collectors. Some of his teaching has focused on the ways in which human habitation has affected landscapes.

A sampling of Harvard Alumni Travels programs

LAND & RAIL

AN ACTIVE EXPLORATION OF THE AZORES
OCT 10–15, 2019
JEREMIAH TRIMBLE

SILK ROAD IN CENTRAL ASIA (THE FIVE STANS)
OCT 10–28, 2019
SUSANNE EBBINGHAUS

HMSC DISCOVER ETHIOPIA
OCT 11–28, 2019

EXPLORING THE WINE REGIONS OF BORDEAUX & RIOJA
OCT 12–20, 2019
TOM CONLEY

CULTURAL LEGACY OF PITTSBURGH, AMERICA’S STEEL TOWN
OCT 24–28, 2019
ALICE DELANA

LEBANON & JORDAN: FROM CASTLES TO CARAVANS
OCT 31–NOV 3, 2019
JOSEPH GREENE

FAMILY ADVENTURES

HMSC GALÁPAGOS FAMILY ADVENTURE ON LA PINTA
JUN 23–JUL 2, 2019
BRIAN FARRELL

TANZANIA FAMILY SAFARI
DEC 22, 2019–JAN 2, 2020

NEW YEAR’S IN HAVANA: A FAMILY PROGRAM IN CUBA
DEC 27, 2019–JAN 1, 2020
GABRIELE SOTO

EGYPT & THE NILE (A FAMILY ADVENTURE) ON SANCTUARY NILE ADVENTURER
DEC 27, 2019–JAN 6, 2020
DAVID AGUILAR

CRUISES

HBS NEW YEAR’S GALÁPAGOS ON ORIGIN
DEC 28, 2019–JAN 6, 2020
DANIEL LIEBERMAN

SICILY BY SAIL: VALLETTA TO CATANIA ON SEA CLOUD II
OCT 3–11, 2019
LEO DAMROSCH & JOYCE VAN DYKE

OMAN AND THE GULF STATES ON CRYSTAL ESPRIT
JAN 2–12, 2020
EREZ MANELA

TASMANIA BY LAND AND SEA ON CORAL DISCOVERER
JAN 6–22, 2020
ANDREW BERRY

EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA ON LE BOREAL
JAN 15–31, 2020
JAMES SALZMAN

MADAGASCAR TO MAURITIUS: ISLANDS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN ON SERENISSIMA
JAN 15–31, 2020
PETER GALBRAITH

ABOVE: HOTEL AWA
INSETS (TOP TO BOTTOM): HIKING VIRA VIRA; FLOATING RAFT, LIUCURA RIVER; NAVIGATING PATAGONIAN GLACIERS
Schedule by Day

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020
U.S. / Santiago
Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Santiago.

MONDAY, MARCH 23
Santiago
Arrive in Santiago and transfer to your hotel. This afternoon you embark on a city tour of Santiago exploring San Cristobal Hill and the Pueblo de Los Dominicos Handicraft Market.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24
Santiago / Temuco / Pucón
This morning fly to Temuco and transfer to Pucón. Generally considered as the adventure capital of Chile, the area around Pucón offers myriad outdoor activities. There is however far more to this multi-faceted destination. National parks, volcanoes, mountains, and lakes create one of the most beautiful natural sites Chile has to offer. The area is also the seat of the Mapuche, Chile’s main ethnic group. Their culture is very much alive in the area through cuisine, traditions, and language. Your lodge the Vira Vira is nestled amidst a spectacular, sprawling 56-acre estate facing the forests and Andes mountains and of the Lake District. The primeval forests of 1,000-year-old monkey-puzzle trees draped in feathery lichen are only a short hike away. Because of the lakes nearby and the steep mountains, there’s an enormous range of all-season land-and water-based activities that are offered. This afternoon, choose from tailor-made excursions hosted by knowledgeable and engaging guides, including hikes, wilderness bike rides, horseback riding, kayaking expedition, and river rafting. All excursions are specifically tailored according to your interests and fitness levels.

Vira Vira (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 TO THURSDAY, MARCH 26
Pucón
Explore the lakes, rivers, fjords, and peaks of Chile’s Lake District. Vira Vira’s personal excursion managers and your tour director will assist you in choosing from tailor-made excursions for each day. Excursions and choices include: kayaking along Lake Tinquilco, boat floats on the Liucura River, white-water rafting over the rapids of the Trancura River, trekking (various levels of difficulty, both half and full-day), horseback riding, mountain biking, volcano climbing, birdwatching walks, and tours of the nearby farm and cheese making facility; or, just enjoy the tranquil surroundings of Vira Vira from one of the outdoor hot tubs along the river.

Vira Vira (2B, 2L, 2D)

FRIDAY, MARCH 27
Pucón / Puerto Montt / Puerto Varas
Enjoy your morning at Vira Vira. After, transfer to Puerto Varas. Along the way witness remarkable vistas of emerald lakes, green forests, and snow-capped volcanoes. You’ll arrive at your hotel perched along the sparkling shoreline of Lake Llanquihue, just outside of popular Puerto Varas. Each of its guest rooms boasts uninterrupted views across Lake Llanquihue to Volcano Osorno.

Hotel AWA (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 28
Puerto Varas
This morning enjoy a private excursion to Petrohué Falls, a succession of rapids with its capricious forms of volcanic rocks bathed by emerald color waterfalls against a backdrop of Andean mountains and Chile’s magnificent Osorno Volcano. Next, explore the town of Puerto Varas, known as “La ciudad de las rosas” or “The city of roses”,

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and its central streets and boulevards are decorated with these gentle, fragrant rosettes. In the company of a guide, peruse through the quaint stores for locally-crafted Mapuche artifacts. Continue to Frutillar, founded in 1856 by German settlers and distinguished by its beautiful lakeside setting, colorful Victorian and Bavarian-style houses, churches, and teahouses. Hotel AWA (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 29
Puerto Montt / Punta Arenas / Puerto Natales
Transfer to the airport in nearby Puerto Montt for a flight to Punta Arenas, Chile’s southernmost city, located on the Strait of Magellan opposite Tierra del Fuego. Founded in 1848, in its golden age it served as a port of call for ships circumnavigating the world. Transfer to Puerto Natales to the Singular Lodge and gateway to Torres del Paine National Park, the crown jewel of Patagonia.
The Singular Hotel (B, D)

MONDAY, MARCH 30 – TUESDAY, MARCH 31
Torres del Paine
Torres del Paine National Park was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1978. The dramatic mountain formations of towering rock, windswept pampas, ice fields, and glaciers, make it an impressive sight. Look out for herds of guanacos and rheas, flamingos, condors, foxes, geese, and black-necked swans. Lakes and lagoons abound in hues of blue, green, and gray. Each evening at cocktail hour, choose from a variety of excursions including excursions in the national park and surrounding area for the following day. Activities range in difficulty from easy to challenging and include navigating the Patagonian glaciers via boat, kayaking, cooking lessons, hiking, mountain biking, or horseback riding. On Tuesday evening gather for a farewell dinner.
The Singular Hotel (2B, 2L, 2D)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
Puerto Natales / Punta Arenas / Santiago / U.S.
Return to Punta Arenas and transfer to the airport for a flight to Santiago. Connect with flights back to the U.S. (B)

THURSDAY, APRIL 2
Arrive U.S.
Arrive this morning in the U.S. and connect to your home airport.

Highlights
• Explore the lakes, rivers, fjords, and peaks of Chile’s Lake District.
• Enjoy reflective walks among the majestic massifs of Torres del Paine National Park.
• Unwind at three of Patagonia’s top luxury lodges after each day of successful Adventures.
• Choose from tailor-made excursions including day hikes, wilderness bike rides, horseback adventures, kayaking expeditions, and river rafting.
What to Expect
This exclusive expedition is designed for HBS alumni and friends who are interested in learning about the history, culture, and superb natural areas of Patagonian Chile including the Lake District and area surrounding Puerto Natales. This is a moderately active to active program. Excursions can be tailored to guests’ specific interests and fitness levels. Hikes of different mileage and duration are offered. Activities include trekking, mountain biking, kayaking, birdwatching, horseback riding, boat navigation of glaciers (southern Patagonia) and white-water rafting (Lake District). The trip takes place during early autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. Typically, the weather is warm Santiago (approx. 75-80°F). The average daytime temperature in the Lake District is 68°F.

Sites in southern Patagonia are usually cold in the early morning and late evening but can be sunny and warm during the day with average daytime temperatures of 52°F - 58°F. Winds, which can be strong, are frequent in the southern Patagonia area, and weather, is unpredictable. Since some travel will be in remote areas, everyone must be flexible concerning time schedules, weather, and dust. To enjoy this trip, a spirit of adventure and anticipation and the desire to explore spectacular natural areas are musts. There are a couple of relatively long drives, which are necessary for the chance to explore the superb scenery of Patagonia. Travel is by regular scheduled jet aircraft, boat (for some optional day excursions), and motor coach. There are no altitude issues on this trip.

Accommodations

Ritz-Carlton Santiago
The Ritz-Carlton, Santiago, set within the prestigious El Golf district, captures this distinct energy and experience with luxury hotel rooms and suites, a luxurious rooftop spa and wellness center, a collection of elegant meeting and event spaces and locally inspired dining. Rooms at The Ritz-Carlton, Santiago boast a classic stylish décor. They feature spacious seating and dining areas. Splendid views of the city can be enjoyed from the rooms.

Vira Vira
The Vira Vira is located just outside of Pucon nestled amidst a spectacular sprawling 56-acre estate. Immersed in a beautiful park with natural lagoons, flowing rivers and sensational views of the Villarrica Volcano, luxurious grounds boast both a magnificent lodge and hacienda with beautifully appointed suites and villas. A modern working farm, organic vegetable garden and state-of-the-art cheese factory complete the estate. Freshly grown produce is sourced from the farm and used to create award-winning Chilean-inspired menus. The hotel offers free Wi-Fi, laundry service, soaking tubs and an open bar.

Awa Hotel
The hotel is located on the shores of Lake Llanquihue, close to Puerto Varas and at the gateway to Patagonia. Each of its rooms boast uninterrupted views across Lake Llanquihue to Osorno Volcano. Guests can also enjoy exclusive access to hotel facilities, such as the spa with a semi-Olympic pool, the beach and its private jetty and the organic fruit and vegetable garden and free Wi-Fi. AWA also possesses a fine dining restaurant with a gastronomic menu based on produce from its organic garden and local growers.

The Singular Patagonia
Since it opened in late 2011, The Singular Patagonia has been the most talked about hotel property in Chilean Patagonia. Situated on a National Historic Landmark site, the hotel is the result of a meticulous, 10-year transformation of a former cold-storage plant into a striking industrial-meets-modern property. Rooms measure 500 square feet and feature 20-foot glass-panel windows overlooking the Patagonian fjords. The Singular is known for its refined restaurant and includes an open bar. The lodge has an indoor pool, an outdoor seasonal pool, and a sauna and hot tub and free Wi-Fi.

Program Rates (per person)

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<th>Double occupancy</th>
<th>$8,995</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single occupancy</td>
<td>$12,470</td>
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(Limited availability)

Sample Coach Airfare

| Boston/Santiago/Boston | $1,023 |

(Not included, price as of April 2019, quoted separately and subject to change)

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