# 2021 HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

DISCOVER • LEARN • CONNECT • EXPLORE

# The Natural Gems and Luxury Lodges of PATAGONIA

October 31 to November 11, 2021 with Study Leader





Horseback riding; (below right) Moutain biking in the Lake District

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 Tinguilco, or mountain biking to the foot of the Villarrica Volcano. Travel onward to the Hotel AWA, perched along the sparkling shoreline of Lake Llanguihue, 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: 🔥 🦄 🖄 🖄

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

## Harvard Study Leader

A Harvard University study leader will accompany us, adding a unique and memorable perspective to this extraordinary journey. The study leader will present an informative educational program developed exclusively for our members. We were unable to confirm the study leader in time for the publishing of this brochure, but we invite you to call our office for further information at 800-422-1636.





Torres del Paine; Huerquehue National Park; Santiago

## Schedule by Day

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021

#### U.S. / Santiago

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Santiago.

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1

#### 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. Ritz-Carlton (D)

#### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

#### 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-vear-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, NOVEMBER 3 -THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

#### 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 Tinguilco. 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 tranguil surroundings of Vira Vira from one of the outdoor hot tubs along the river. Vira Vira (2B, 2L, 2D)

#### FRIDAY. NOVEMBER 5 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 Llanguihue, just outside of popular Puerto Varas. Each of its guest rooms boasts uninterrupted views across Lake Llanguihue to Volcano Osorno. Hotel AWA (B, L, D)

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6 **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",



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 Bavarianstyle houses, churches, and teahouses. Hotel AWA (B, L, D)

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7 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, NOVEMBER 8 – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

#### **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, NOVEMBER 10 **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, NOVEMBER 11 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 tailormade excursions including day hikes, wilderness bike rides, horseback adventures, kayaking expeditions, and river rafting.



### 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-theart 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.

# Program Rates (per person)

Double occupancy	\$9,995
Single occupancy	
(Limited availability)\$	13,635

# 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 61°F. Sites in southern

#### The Singular; bedroom at Vira Vira; dessert at Vira Vira

#### 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-meetsmodern 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.

#### Sample Coach Airfare

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 52-56°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.

# **TRAVEL WITH HARVARD**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL • 800-422-1636 • HAATRAVELS@HARVARD.EDU





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JOIN HAA TRAVELS on an exclusive journey to explore the stunning landscapes of Patagonia. October 31 to November 11, 2021