

2025

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

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Chile's Remote Corners & Unique Landscapes:

The Atacama Desert & Patagonian Andes

October 3–14, 2025

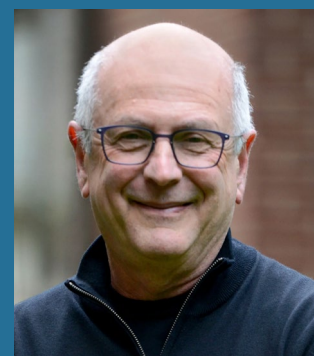


HARVARD

Alumni Travels



Study Leader Peter C. Frumhoff



Peter C. Frumhoff is a professor of environmental science and public policy at Harvard University and a senior science policy advisor at the Woodwell Climate Research Center. He also serves on the Board of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. He has taught at Stanford, Tufts, and the University of Maryland and was an AAAS Science and Diplomacy Fellow. He holds a PhD in ecology from UC Davis and a BA in psychology from UC San Diego. Themes he plans to address on this program include climate change and sustainability.

CHILE'S REMOTE CORNERS & UNIQUE LANDSCAPES: The Atacama Desert & Patagonian Andes

Join an exclusive tour of Chile to experience its spectacular skies, vineyards, ancient cultures, and legendary landscapes. Stargazers are drawn to northern Chile for its dark, clear skies and rare clouds. The journey culminates in the Atacama Desert, featuring coastal plains, high volcanoes, the world's highest geyser basin, and stunning altiplanic lagoons. Stay at Explora Atacama Lodge in San Pedro de Atacama, where you'll enjoy luxury accommodations and tailored excursions focused on natural history, wildlife, geology, and astronomy.

Travel to Casablanca Valley, renowned for its cool climate perfect for producing acclaimed chardonnays and sauvignon blancs. Enjoy a private tour, tasting, and lunch at Kingston Family Vineyard, celebrated for its award-winning red wines.

In Torres del Paine National Park, spend three days at Explora Torres del Paine Lodge. Engage in activities ranging from easy to challenging, including navigation on Pehoé Lake by catamaran, van trips, and treks. Discover diverse Patagonian ecosystems, from Magellan forests to steppes, in one of the world's most remote and pristine regions, known for its dramatic landscapes and traditional gaucho hospitality.

Activity Level 3:

A LITTLE MORE TO IT Busy pacing may include multiple hotel changes plus internal flights and long drives. May involve exposure to the outdoors, full days of touring, and walking up to two hours. To make the most of what this expedition has to offer, the trip will be active, requiring you to be in good health and physical condition. The schedule will include long days, with some early departures, and activities scheduled throughout the day and into the evening. Daily excursions can require up to three hours of walking, often over loose rocks, and uneven terrain where stairs are unavailable or do not have handrails, and standing, often in the warm sun. Rafting down class II/III rapids on the Sarapiquí River is appropriate for kids 6 and older. The degree of difficulty for each day's activity will be described in daily briefings. This promises to be a memorable journey, but as with all travel, a flexible attitude, a spirit of adventure and a willingness to explore new areas will enhance your enjoyment of this program. You do not have to participate in all the scheduled activities, except when traveling to the next destination. We are sure you will be pleased with the exciting educational program provided, but we want you to be aware of the pace and activity level.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS
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Kingston Family Vineyards entrance



Highlights

- **Visit the Atacama Desert:** Experience the vast and beautiful Atacama Desert, including the Salar de Atacama and the National Flamingo Reserve.
- **Spend three days in the Torres del Paine National Park:** Enjoy the grandeur of Torres del Paine, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 1978, and look for herds of guanacos and rheas.
- **Sample exquisite wine and food in Casablanca Valley:** Relish a private tour, tasting, and lunch at Kingston Family Vineyard, where pioneering owners create award-winning red wines in a valley known for its whites.
- **Explora Lodges:** Atacama & Torres del Paine Experience the best of both worlds with Explora's lodges. At Explora Atacama Lodge in San Pedro de Atacama, enjoy luxury accommodations with a focus on sustainability, reducing carbon footprint, and supporting local communities amidst breathtaking volcanic landscapes. At Explora Torres del Paine Lodge, explore diverse Patagonian ecosystems and meandering rivers, while experiencing the warm hospitality of local gauchos in a land defined by freedom and solitude.

Schedule by Day

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

DEPART U.S./SANTIAGO, CHILE

Depart on an overnight flight to Santiago, arriving early in the morning.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

DEPART U.S./SANTIAGO, CHILE

Arrive in Santiago early in the morning and transfer to the Ritz-Carlton. Gather for an afternoon city tour, including a visit to the impressive Pre-Columbian Museum. The day concludes with a welcome cocktail and dinner.

Ritz Carlton (D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

SANTIAGO/CALAMA

On your way to Calama, drive through the surreal landscapes of the Atacama Desert, the driest place on Earth. Arrive at the Explora Atacama Lodge in San Pedro de Atacama, an oasis originally settled by the indigenous Atacameños. This stunning spot, ringed by volcanoes and otherworldly geology, will be your home for the next three nights. After a welcome briefing by your guides and dinner, enjoy an evening of stargazing from the lodge's very own observatory.

Explora Atacama (B, L, D)



Flamingos at Salar de Atacama; Atacama Church in Calama.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA

Discover the wildlife and landscapes of the Atacama Desert with a range of custom excursions led by expert guides. Whether you prefer a full-day trek, horseback riding, or mountain biking, your adventure can be tailored to match your interests and abilities. Explore iconic sites such as Moon Valley, the Salt Mountain Range, the high-altitude lagoons of Miscanti and Miñiques, Salar de Atacama, the National Flamingo Reserve, Tatio Geysers, and the Puritama Hot Springs. Your tour director and excursion manager will help you select the perfect activity for each day of your journey. Explora Atacama (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA

Enjoy another opportunity to tailor your experience with a variety of custom excursions, whether you're up for another full-day trek, some horseback riding, or mountain biking. With so much more to discover, including Moon Valley, the Salt Mountain Range, and the high-altitude lagoons of Miscanti and Miñiques, every moment promises to be as captivating as the last. Explora Atacama (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA/ CASABLANCA VALLEY/ SANTIAGO

Travel to the rolling vineyards of Casablanca Valley, one of Chile's renowned wine regions. Located near the Pacific coast, Casablanca Valley enjoys a cool climate ideal for producing acclaimed chardonnays and sauvignon blancs. Enjoy a private tour,

tasting, and lunch at the Kingston Family Vineyard, where the pioneering owners have coaxed award-winning red wines from a valley known for whites. Late in the day, return to the hotel and enjoy dinner independently at one of Santiago's many fine restaurants. Ritz Carlton (B, L)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

SANTIAGO/PUNTA ARENAS/ TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

Fly to Punta Arenas and transfer to Torres del Paine National Park, established as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1978. Along the way, look for herds of guanacos and rheas, gray foxes, Patagonian hares, and black-necked swans.

Arrive at the prestigious Explora Torres del Paine Lodge, located on the northeastern edge of the national park and set amidst diverse ecosystems such as Magellan forests and steppes. Explora Torres del Paine (B, L, D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 TO SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

Begin your first of three full days exploring the most impressive region in southern Chile—Torres del Paine National Park.

Whether you choose to hike, ride horses, or unwind amidst nature, there's a wide array of activities to suit your preferences, from gentle walks and relaxing boat trips on Pehoé Lake to more demanding treks. With each experience, you'll discover new facets of this remarkable region, making the most of your time in one of the world's most iconic parks. Explora Torres del Paine (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

Continue exploring the stunning landscapes of Torres del Paine National Park. Choose from a variety of activities and engage in excursions with expert guides. Or, if you prefer, explore on your own or simply relax in the park or at the lodge. Explora Torres del Paine (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

On your final day in Torres del Paine National Park, take the opportunity to soak in the last moments of this extraordinary destination. Whether you revisit your favorite spots or venture to new areas, the park continues to offer unforgettable experiences. Enjoy one last hike, horseback ride, or serene moment by Pehoé Lake, reflecting on the breathtaking scenery and adventures you've had. As your time in the park draws to a close, savor the memories you've created in this remarkable corner of southern Chile, leaving with a deep appreciation for its natural wonders. Explora Torres del Paine (B, L, D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

TORRES DEL PAINE/ PUNTA ARENAS/SANTIAGO/ DEPART FOR U.S.

After a leisurely morning, depart for Punta Arenas, then fly to Santiago and connect to flights back to the U.S. (B, L)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

ARRIVE IN U.S.

Overnight flights back to the U.S.. (B, L)

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Torres del Paine



Rates per Person

Double Occupancy: \$11,990

Single Supplement: \$4,990

Optional Pre-Extension

SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 4

EASTER ISLAND

Arrive early to enjoy the full range of experiences at the Explora Rapa Nui Lodge. Spend three nights exploring the mysteries and beauty of Easter Island. Appreciate the moai, the island's colossal stone statues, as well as the volcanic craters, cliffs, and caves. Choose from several excursions, including walks, bike rides, and snorkeling.

Purtiama Reserve is home to various bird species.



Details

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE: All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, **including nine breakfasts, nine lunches, eight dinners, nine hotel nights** • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to waitstaff, guides and drivers • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • **House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners** • Filtered water for water bottles on motorcoaches • Complete packet of pre-departure information • **Professional tour manager throughout the program**

NOT INCLUDED: U.S. domestic and international airfare • On-tour airfare is not included in the program rates. Round-trip, economy-class airfare for four flights (Santiago/Calama roundtrip, and Santiago/Punta Arenas roundtrip) is estimated at \$900 per person and may vary. On-tour air will be purchased on your behalf and billed with the final payment • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature



AIR ARRANGEMENTS Domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376- 1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.



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TO REGISTER



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Visit: alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/atacama-patagonia-2025

Step 2

Click the Blue “**Register Today**” button and fill out the online form with your contact information and payment details.

Step 3

Look for an **email confirmation** from Harvard Alumni Travels.

All bookings are conducted online only.

Find complete trip-specific terms and conditions on the trip web page (link above).



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