Cruising Patagonia's Chilean Fjords

With Mark Van Baalen,
Lecturer on Earth and Planetary Sciences

October 20 – November 2, 2015
“IT IS SCARCELY POSSIBLE TO IMAGINE ANYTHING MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE BERYL-LIKE BLUE OF THESE GLACIERS,” WROTE CHARLES DARWIN, AWESTRUCK BY THE UNIQUE IRIDESCENT BLUE-GREEN ICE WHILE CRUISING SOUTHERN ARGENTINA AND CHILE IN 1833.

From the legendary Tierra del Fuego archipelago to glacier-studded fjords and sweeping pampas grassland, you too can experience the extremes and contrasts of this breathtaking tip of South America—Patagonia—which crosses the Andes from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

On this unforgettable land and sea journey of extraordinary inspiration, retrace the travels of Darwin and Ferdinand Magellan in southern Chile, a wild landscape still virtually untouched even more than a century after the first European settlers. Discover extraordinary places from Santiago to the awe-inspiring diversity of Patagonia, through magnificent Glacier Alley to the tip of Cape Horn, the “edge of the world.”

Follow in the wake of Darwin and HMS Beagle, aboard the expedition ship M.V. Via Australis, designed specifically for cruising the historic and spectacular waterways of southern Patagonia, where the mountains meet the ocean. Rivaling those of Norway and Alaska, the Chilean fjords offer, among their hidden islands and narrow channels, some of the world’s best viewing of tidewater glaciers, subantarctic woodlands and marine wildlife—Andean condors, humpback whales, Peale’s dolphins and rare Chilean dolphins. It is also a region rich in history, and you will cruise through two of the most significant passages in world exploration—Beagle Channel and the Strait of Magellan. An onboard team of multilingual expert naturalists will enrich your expedition with their in-depth knowledge of the region’s history, natural wonders and wildlife. The ship is equipped with Zodiac landing craft for excursions to see glaciers up close as they crack and calve; observe the unique local wildlife, including Magellanic penguins, elephant seals and cormorants; and see traces of the Yámanas, the original settlers of Wulaia Bay.

THIS IS A CO-SPONSORED PROGRAM: National Trust for Historic Preservation

FOR DETAILED ITINERARIES VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/HA/HAA/TRAVEL
HARVARD STUDY LEADER

Mark Van Baalen, Associate in Earth and Planetary Sciences

Mark Van Baalen has served the University in a variety of roles since 1962. He received his A.B. in Astronomy in 1966. While an undergraduate he worked on the NASA-funded OSO-D satellite that flew in 1967 and obtained the first successful ultraviolet images of the Sun from orbit. Later, he turned his attention to the Earth sciences, receiving his A.M. and Ph.D. in Geology. Since 1995 he has been a Lecturer and Associate in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. During that time he taught popular courses in physical and environmental geology, and acted as mentor to many undergraduates.

Over the course of his career, Mark’s research has focused on the origin of ancient ocean basins and their associated mountain belts. More recently, he has studied the interactions between human activities and the inexorable process of climate change. In addition to these strictly scientific interests, Mark has a deep interest in history, including the exploration of remote regions of the world.

Mark and his wife, Louisa—recently retired from the Kennedy School of Government, have been privileged to lead numerous HAA excursions to distant lands. On these trips, Mark lectures on the natural history of the regions being visited, as well as painting a broader picture of human interaction with its environment, now and in the past.

ENGAGING EXPERTS ON BOARD

Seasoned expert naturalists, who have studied and traveled extensively in this remote region of the world, will travel with you aboard the m.v. VIA AUSTRALIS and provide lectures and presentations on glaciology in Patagonia, discovering Tierra del Fuego, survival of the native Indians in the region and Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic adventures. The team’s collaborative experience and enthusiasm for sharing their knowledge make them exceptionally well-suited to lead your cruise through Patagonia’s Chilean fjords.

Scheduled guest speakers may be altered due to circumstances beyond our control. See General Information section.
TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20 AND 21

U.S./SANTIAGO, CHILE
Depart the U.S. for Santiago, Chile. Upon arrival, check into the Five-Star Grand Hyatt Santiago. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22

SANTIAGO
Experience Santiago, Chile’s vibrant and modern capital in the foothills of the snowcapped Andes Mountains. Tour the highlights of the city’s native and traditional European-influenced architecture and culture. Visit the outstanding collections in the Museum of Pre-Columbian Art. Take in the stunning views of the city and surrounding mountains from atop San Cristóbal Hill. Then, enjoy a scenic transfer through the Maipo Valley to visit the famous, 130-year-old Santa Rita Winery. A local expert will guide you through the vineyard and a private tasting of wine. (b, l)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

PUNTA ARENAS
After breakfast in the hotel, transfer to the capital of Chile’s Magallanes province, historic Punta Arenas. The southernmost continental city in the world, this city overlooks the Strait of Magellan, and is the gateway to Patagonia and the Antarctic. During a city tour, admire the Napoleonic architecture and culture. Visit the outstanding collections in the Museum of Pre-Columbian Art. Take in the stunning views of the city and surrounding mountains from atop San Cristóbal Hill. Then, enjoy a scenic transfer through the Maipo Valley to visit the famous, 130-year-old Santa Rita Winery. A local expert will guide you through the vineyard and a private tasting of wine. (b, l, r)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

PUERTO NATALES
After checking out of the hotel, journey into the heart of Patagonia to see a vast horizon and rugged, beautiful countryside unfold against a backdrop of snowcapped mountains, where sheep, guanacos and the endangered lesser rhea roam. Originally inhabited by the Tehuelche people for thousands of years, the town of Puerto Natales later served as a major transit point for the sheep and coal industries of 20th-century Patagonia.

Your Five-Star accommodations are in The Singular Patagonia, one of the finest hotels in South America and recognized as a National Monument of Chile. (b, l, d)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK
South America’s finest national park and National Geographic’s fifth most beautiful place in the world, this UNESCO Biosphere Reserve is a majestic jewel. Torres del Paine is a pristine reservoir of magnificent glaciers, lakes dramatic mountain ranges and an abundance of distinctive wildlife—ostrich-like rheas, pumas, the endangered South Andean deer and guanacos, the predecessor to llamas and alpacas. From the shores of Grey Lake, admire the inspiring views of the Torres del Paine Massif and Grey Glacier. Enjoy lunch in the park with spectacular views of its signature massive three-peaked Cordillera Paine mountaintops. (b, l)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

PUERTO NATALES/PUNTA ARENAS
After checking out of the hotel, visit the nearby Milodón Cave, which 1890s German pioneer Herman Eberhard discovered the prehistoric remains of a 13-foot giant sloth. Visit Hostería Estancia Río Penitente Patagonian sheep ranch, today a preserved Victorian farmhouse owned by descendants of Scottish pioneers.

TUESDAY TO THURSDAY

OCTOBER 27 TO 29

CRUISING THE CHILEAN FJORDS
On board the small expedition ship M.V. Via Australis, cruise the channels and straits of Tierra del Fuego, formed by the southern end of the great Andes mountain range. Amid amazing scenery, observe up close vivid blue tidewater glaciers and see a vast array of wildlife, including elephant seals, cormorants, skua birds and Magellanic penguins.

Located in the lesser known Alberto de Agostini National Park, the coastal inlet Ainsworth Bay is fed by the retreating tidewater Matteo Glacier and is home to a colony of elephant seals. In a Zodiac craft, make a landing on the shores to walk among the broadleaf trees in the subpolar Magellanic forest and to see the dramatic environmental effects of tens of thousands of beavers, descendants of the original 20 that were imported from North America in 1946. During a Zodiac excursion in neighboring Admiralty Sound, observe the unusual bird species on Tucker Islet, including rock cormorants, dolphin gulls, Magellanic penguins and chimango caracaras.

Cruise Beagle Channel, named for Darwin’s ship, which twice explored these waters in the mid-19th century. Make a Zodiac landing and walk to a magnificent vantage point to see the tidewater Pia Glacier calve into the fjord. Cruise through the grand Glacier Alley, a majestic wonderland of hanging and tidewater glaciers flowing from the Darwin Range.

Cape Horn, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, has a history that demands reverence for nature’s power. Take a Zodiac craft ashore for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to stand at the “edge of the world” overlooking legendary Drake Passage, weather permitting.
Walk across the low-lying, fragile tundra vegetation for an unmatched panoramic view of ships passing around the tip of the New World between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Cruise into Wulaia Bay, and make a Zodiac landing on Isla Navarino. Birdlife, including the unusual Magellanic oystercatcher, is abundant along the shore, while a hike through a Magellanic forest to 700 feet above sea level offers a spectacular view of the bay. Visit the former outpost of the Chilean Navy, which now houses exhibits on past explorers and the indigenous Yámana peoples. (3b, 3d)

Friday, October 30 to Sunday, November 1

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Disembark the ship in Buenos Aires and check into the deluxe Hotel Emperador. Known as the birthplace of the tango, this city consists of diverse barrios (neighborhoods), including the colorful La Boca district, Monserrat’s historic Plaza de Mayo and grand public buildings, Palermo’s lavish parks, Puerto Madero’s riverfront community and the charming old quarter of San Telmo. The city’s historic Recoleta Cemetery is famous for its ornate vaults and sculptures and as the final resting place of the legendary Evita Perón, the former First Lady of Argentina. Transfer to the airport Sunday for your overnight flight. (3b, 3c)

Monday, November 2

U.S.

Arrive in the U.S.

October 17-21

EASTER ISLAND PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

$1,860 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
$2,460 SINGLE OCCUPANCY

The UNESCO World Heritage site of Easter Island and its unique archaeological treasures are shrouded in mystery. Centuries ago, people settled on this tiny island, a mere 64-square-mile speck amid the vast Pacific Ocean, more than 1200 miles from any other inhabited land. Many questions remain as to how and when they arrived here and why they sculpted the hundreds of gigantic stone moai placed across the island. Unearth the enigmatic ancient culture and meet the friendly present-day residents of this solitary island. Visit its most important sites, including the basalt quarry from which the moai were carved and where many incomplete sculptures still lie, the white sand beach said to be the landing site of the island’s first settler, and the village central to the curious ceremonial Birdman culture, predominant until the arrival of Christian missionaries. Enjoy accommodations for three nights in the deluxe Hotel Hangaroa featuring spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean.

November 1-4

IGUAZÚ FALLS POST-PROGRAM OPTION

JUNGLE VIEW ROOMS
$1,095 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
$1,595 SINGLE OCCUPANCY

FALLS VIEW ROOMS
$1,195 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
$1,795 SINGLE OCCUPANCY

The UNESCO World Heritage site of Iguazu Falls, one of nature’s most incredible wonders along the Brazil-Argentina frontier, features more than 275 spectacular waterfalls cascading from heights of 270 feet down through the breathtaking virgin rainforest. Walk among the Argentine Falls and admire magnificent panoramic views of Devil’s Gorge, the highest of the falls. The lush jungle setting of Parque das Aves is a nature lover’s paradise as it is home to more than 350 species of birds, 66 varieties of mammals and a mind-boggling array of reptiles, fish, butterflies and flora. This exclusive two-night Post-Program Option features accommodations in the deluxe Sheraton Iguazu Resort & Spa.

The Pre- and Post-Program Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

What is included:

- Enrichment program of lectures and discussions by Mark Van Baalen and expert naturalists
- Four-night cruise aboard the small expedition ship m.v. Via Australis
- Complimentary regional wines are served with lunch and dinner on board the ship
- Cruise to a vivid series of up-close glaciers in Beagle Channel’s magnificent Glacier Alley
- Two nights in the Five-Star Grand Hyatt Santiago in Santiago, Chile, one night in the centrally located Hotel Cabo de Hornos in Punta Arenas, Chilean Patagonia, two nights in the Five-Star The Singular Patagonia hotel in Puerto Natales, and two nights in the deluxe Hotel Emperador in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- All activities, excursions, entrance fees and meals per detailed itinerary
- Taxes and gratuities to ship personnel, guides and drivers
- Services of a tour manager throughout the program
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
- $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
General Information:

Tour Cost Inclusions: Taxes; all transfers and luggage handling abroad for all participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s); all activities, excursions, entrance fees, accommodation, and meals per detailed itinerary; gratuities to ship personnel, local guides and drivers; tour manager throughout; $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance.

Tour Cost Exclusions: International airfare from the U.S.; all internal program air; local departure air taxes; associated local taxes, airport facility taxes and federal inspection fees not listed in the "Inclusions" section; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); passport fees; visas and fees for obtaining visas; personal expenses such as laundry; telephone calls and Internet access; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to hotel personnel; optional sightseeing excursions; meals and alcoholic beverages not listed in the "Inclusions" section.

Reservations, Deposits, & Final Payment: To reserve a space on this program, a $1,000 deposit is required per person (plus $200 per person Pre- and/or Post-Program). Please either call us at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806 or fill out and mail or fax the registration form found in the back of this brochure. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Payment terms will be sent to you with your reservation confirmation from our partner tour operator.

Cancellations & Refunds: All cancellations must be made in writing to the Harvard Alumni Association and are subject to a $200 per person nonrefundable administrative fee. Cancellation fees increase as the trip departure date approaches. Please refer to the full terms and conditions at http://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/Chilean-Fjords-2015.

Changes in Itinerary and Costs: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of HAA Travels and the tour operator. Ship schedules, changes in itinerary and costs:

- Category 1, $8,350
  - Standard cabin with two twin beds or one double bed and a large window.
  - Cabo de Hornos Deck.
  - Single Pricing: $10,150
- Category 2, $7,850
  - Standard cabin with two twin beds or one double bed and a large window.
  - Magallanes Deck.
  - Single Pricing: $10,650
- Category 3, $7,350
  - Standard cabin with two twin beds or one double bed and a large window.
  - Magallanes Deck.
- Category 4, $6,850
  - Cabin with two twin beds and two windows.
  - Patagonia Deck.

Taxes are included.

Insurance: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by the HAA upon confirmation.


Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. HAA Travels nor the tour operator is responsible for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

Questions: Please call HAA Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, email: haatravels@harvard.edu.

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