



Chilean Wonders

Lake District & Patagonia



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University of Illinois Alumni Association



ALUMNI

January 29 – February 10, 2027

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Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Adventure awaits on an unforgettable, twelve-night journey to Chile! This South American jewel, more than 2,500 miles long but only about 110 miles wide, features vastly distinct regions. Your first destination lies in central Chile, where Santiago sits in a valley between the Andes and the Pacific coastline. Enjoy a guided tour of the capital's highlights, while soaking up its cosmopolitan energy. Next, travel southward to the stunning Lakes Region to explore pristine Chiloé Island, cruise on Lake Todos los Santos and be awed by the Petrohué River Falls.

Your next stop brings you to the spectacular landscapes of Chilean Patagonia near the continent's tip. Delve into maritime history at the floating Nao Victoria Museum, cruise the Última Esperanza Fjord to witness dramatic glaciers and walk amid the untamed beauty of Bernardo O'Higgins National Park. On a panoramic drive, revel in the wild grandeur of Torres del Paine National Park. Marvel at the Salto Grande waterfall, the arresting Horns of Paine and more! Conclude in Santiago with a full day at leisure.

Your seasoned Travel Director will manage all the details, so you can fully enjoy each day's enriching experiences, and expert local guides and lecturers offer rich context to enhance your appreciation of captivating Chile. This well-rounded, small-group trip includes first-class hotels, all flights within Chile and a generous meal plan!

This experience of a lifetime will fill up fast. Guarantee your spot by reserving today!

Sincerely,



David Bambrey
President

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

UNESCO World Heritage

- 1 **Biosphere Reserve, Torres del Paine National Park**
- 2 **Churches of Chiloé**



Ecclesiastical wooden architecture, Chiloé



Salto Grande waterfall, Torres del Paine



Discovery begins here



Embark on an exceptional journey through Chile's wild, untamed landscapes and gracious culture, traveling across three strikingly distinct regions. Discover dynamic Santiago, framed by the Andes, and linger among pristine lakes and cascading waterfalls in the storied Lakes Region. Be awed by Patagonia's spectacular national parks, towering glaciers and legendary fjords! Along the way, indulge in celebrated Chilean wines and tantalizing regional cuisine.

Top: Balmaceda Glacier | Above: Magellanic penguins
Cover: Guanaco, Torres del Paine | Mail panel: Chilean cowboy
| Vineyards of Maipo Valley

Inspiring Moments



- Explore vibrant, cosmopolitan **Santiago**, nestled in the Andes foothills.
- Ferry over to **remote Chiloé Island** and encounter Humboldt and Magellanic penguins in their natural habitat.
- Thrill to breathtaking turquoise lakes and waterfalls in the **Lakes Region**.
- Step aboard a replica of **Magellan's pioneering ship** at a floating museum.
- Navigate through the **Última Esperanza Fjord** to behold majestic glaciers at Bernardo O'Higgins National Park.
- Savor a **Chilean wine tasting** and a **curanto lunch** cooked over hot stones.
- Witness Patagonia's untamed beauty in **Torres del Paine National Park**, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.
- View scale models of the **UNESCO World Heritage Churches of Chiloé** at the Museum of the Churches of Chiloé.



Santiago

Days 1 & 2 | In Transit | Santiago, Chile

Depart your gateway city for Santiago, Chile. ✈️
Arrive, transfer 🚗 and check in to the hotel, ideally situated in the heart of Santiago.

Enrichment: *Chilean History.*

Welcome Reception & Dinner. Gather for tonight's festive kick-off reception and dinner.

Day 3 | Santiago

Santiago Highlights. Explore this capital city on a panoramic tour, with some stops. Pass by the Palacio de la Moneda and the palm-lined Plaza de Armas, flanked by historic buildings. Pause for a guided walk through the bohemian Bellavista neighborhood and Dardignac Street, brimming with vibrant street art and whimsical sculptures. Glimpse the former home of Nobel laureate Pablo Neruda. Pop in for a brief visit to a Chilean crafts store and then enjoy a tour of the Chilean Museum of Pre-Colombian Art.

Chilean Winery. Journey to the Maipo Valley for a tour of a traditional Chilean winery and its vineyards, with a tasting of reserve varietals.

Enrichment: *Contemporary Chile.*

Day 4 | Puerto Montt | Puerto Varas

Check out of the hotel and fly to Puerto Montt.

🌐 **AHI Connects | Curanto Lunch.** Head to a small fishing village for a traditional Chiloé lunch. Savor seafood, meats and vegetables cooked over red-hot stones in a shallow pit.

Transfer to Puerto Varas, check in to the hotel and join a short orientation walk around town.

Relax over dinner together at the hotel tonight.

Day 5 | Puerto Varas | Chiloé Island

Chiloé Island. Take a ferry to this picturesque island and begin with a walk through the town square with its graceful wooden church. Next, travel to Puñihuil and take a boat ride to marvel at Humboldt and Magellanic penguins close to their natural habitats. Return to Ancud for lunch and then visit The Museum of the Churches of Chiloé, which showcases miniature replicas of the island's 17th-century wooden churches.

Free Time: Enjoy a short stroll around Ancud.

Day 6 | Puerto Varas | Lakes Region

Petrohué Falls & Lake Todos los Santos.

Admire breathtaking scenery on a drive through Chile's beautiful, captivating Lakes Region. Head to Petrohué to behold the jaw-dropping natural spectacle of its eponymous, turquoise river falls. Then, take a cruise on the emerald waters of Lake Todos los Santos, framed by dramatic, snowcapped volcano peaks.

Ensenada Village. Indulge in a Patagonian barbecue of traditional Chilean specialties.

Free Time: Explore Puerto Varas at leisure.

Enrichment: *The History of Patagonia.*

Day 7 | Puerto Varas | Punta Arenas

Check out and transfer to the Puerto Montt airport for your flight to Punta Arenas.

Nao Victoria Museum. Delve into maritime history at this interactive floating museum. Step aboard a full-scale replica of Magellan's ship, the first to circumnavigate the globe.

Mirador Cerro de la Cruz. Ascend to this lofty,



beloved urban viewpoint for panoramic views of Punta Arenas and the Strait of Magellan.

Walk to a nearby restaurant for a group lunch.

Free Time: Stroll through the Muñoz Gamero Square, bustling with artisan stalls and street performers, and then check in to the hotel.

Day 8 | Punta Arenas | Puerto Natales

Check out and transfer to Puerto Natales via motor coach. Arrive and check in to the hotel.

Free Time: Settle in, relax and relish some time at leisure in charming Puerto Natales.

Tonight, rejoin your group for dinner together.

Day 9 | Puerto Natales | Bernardo O'Higgins National Park

Fjord Cruise & Glaciers. Navigate through the steep-walled inlets of the awe-inspiring Última Esperanza Fjord. Marvel at emerald hillsides, rugged mountains, Patagonian birds and the awe-inspiring hanging Balmaceda Glacier.

Step ashore in the park and walk/hike along a trail through forests and open meadows. View

Traditional curanto



the spectacular Serrano Glacier, a jagged wall of blue ice towering above a milky lagoon.

Stop at a local Patagonian ranch for lunch and then cruise back to Puerto Natales.

Day 10 | Torres del Paine National Park

Panoramic Park Tour. Spectacular scenery awaits on a drive through the famed national park. Gaze at aquamarine lakes, rolling valleys and the visually arresting Horns of Paine mountain peaks. Pause at the Salto Grande waterfall to witness the raw power of turquoise waters thundering down into Lake Pehóé.

Stop in the park for lunch at Hotel Lago Grey.

Visit the park's Interpretation Center and return to Puerto Natales with photo stops en route.

Free Time: Relish time for dinner and a stroll.

Day 11 | Puerto Natales | Santiago

Take a flight from the Puerto Natales airport to Santiago. Transfer to the hotel for check-in.

Naio Victoria Museum





Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **3 nights** in Santiago, Chile, at the first-class Hotel Cumbres Lastarria.
- **3 nights** in Puerto Varas at the first-class Hotel Cabaña del Lago.
- **1 night** in Punta Arenas at the first-class Hotel Cabo de Hornos.
- **3 nights** in Puerto Natales at the first-class Hotel Costaustralis.

Transfers (with baggage handling)

- All transfers in the Land Program: flights and deluxe motor coaches.

Extensive Meal Program

- 10 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 4 dinners, including a Farewell Dinner; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **Electives** and free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Farewell Dinner. Celebrate your amazing Chilean adventure during tonight's dinner.

Day 12 | Santiago | Depart for home city

Free Time: The day is yours to explore vibrant Santiago on your own or join today's Elective Activity for a visit to delightful coastal towns.

Elective | Viña del Mar & Valparaíso.

Take a scenic drive to the picturesque seaside towns of Viña del Mar and Valparaíso. Walk along the labyrinthine streets, admiring the colorful cliffside houses, eclectic murals and bold street art. Ride a funicular up the hill to Cerro Bellavista to gaze at panoramic vistas, have lunch and explore the area at leisure.

Later today, transfer to the Santiago airport for your return flights to your gateway city. Some travelers may arrive home today.

Day 13 | Arrive in home city

Most travelers arrive home today.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

Witnessing up-close views of the Serrano Glacier

Active Travel

This **Active Program** is designed for people who are in good health and can comfortably participate in a demanding daily schedule of physical activities. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this program require:

- walking distances of up to 3-5 miles on unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats
- tolerating varied climate conditions, including humidity and high altitudes





Torres del Paine National Park

This sublimely beautiful national park spans 935 square miles at Chile's southern tip. Established in 1959, Torres del Paine unfolds in a dramatic panorama of turquoise lakes, majestic glaciers, sweeping valleys and snowcapped summits. The park's crowning jewels are the Cuernos del Paine, or Horns of Paine; the craggy trio of steel-gray Towers of Paine peaks; and the awe-inspiring Salto Grande waterfall. Deepening the park's allure is an abundance of wildlife, with approximately 25 species of mammals inhabiting the reserve: gray and red foxes; the guanaco, a close relative of the llama; the puma, the largest and most elusive; and the endangered Patagonian huemul deer. Flightless ostrich-like Lesser Rheas sprint across the grasslands propelled by their broad wings, and Andean condors circle the skies above.



EXTEND YOUR STAY



Atacama | 3 Nights

Moon Valley

{ Elective POST-Trip Extension at an additional cost }

Explore the Atacama Desert's jaw-dropping beauty! Enjoy three nights at the first-class Hotel Cumbres San Pedro de Atacama and guided tours to see otherworldly landscapes. Includes a round-trip flight between Santiago and Calama; daily breakfasts, two lunches and a dinner; the services of an AHI Travel Director and Hospitality desk; transfers and baggage handling; gratuities for guides and drivers; and all taxes and service charges.

\$2,795 per person, double occupancy | \$3,290 single occupancy

2027 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates † **Jan. 29 – Feb. 10, 2027**

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates* **Jan. 30 – Feb. 9, 2027**

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land Program

Full Price **\$6,545**

Special Savings **\$750**

Special Savings Price* **\$5,795**

***This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$1,000 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 150 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single accommodations are an additional \$1,495 (limited availability).

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/2015A?schoold=69>.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants guide you through the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators offer assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides and Knowledgeable Lecturers deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Accommodations



Hotel Cumbres Lastarria | Santiago



Hotel Cabaña del Lago | Puerto Varas



Hotel Cabo de Hornos | Punta Arenas



Hotel Costaustralis | Puerto Natales



Book your journey today!

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CHILE2777



Bask in Chile's epic, natural landscapes and warm culture!

**Please call or refer to
our website for the
most current program
information, discounts
and pricing.**

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