

# ALLURING AMERICAS

TAILOR-MADE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEYS IN SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

## CENTRAL AMERICA



## SOUTH AMERICA



## Argentina & Chile

An Exclusive Travel Program  
Specially Designed For

**Kristina & Thomas Trowbridge**  
**Janice & Eric Lamers**

**Jan 26 – Feb 15, 2012**

**Date of Issue:** December 30, 2011

**GUESTS:** Kristina & Thomas Trowbridge, Janice & Eric Lamers

**Alluring Americas** proudly welcomes you to Latin America! We are confident that you will enjoy your time in our country and that you will have a memorable vacation.

This dossier reflects details of your travel program and serves as our Final Travel Documentation.

**IMPORTANT TO NOTE**

- No vouchers are required for prepaid arrangements made through **Alluring Americas** as all vouchers are issued locally in your country of travel by our operations team and distributed accordingly on your behalf. However, if a situation arises where you are required to personally present a voucher, you will be provided with these locally at your destination(s).
- There are no refunds for any prepaid **Alluring Americas** service not utilized voluntarily.
- Tour and transfer times will be advised to you by our in-country personnel in Latin America, or your tour guide(s) locally at your destination(s).
- Travel with an open mind and always be respectful and mindful of local cultures, customs and way of life. We also ask that you be understanding about travel conditions in foreign countries. Infrastructures are may not be to the same quality as in the USA.
- In the event of an unexpected situation that affects any portion of this program, **Alluring Americas**, and/or our overseas representatives and associate companies, in their absolute discretion, reserve the right to alter any route or tour arrangement or offer substitutes of equivalent or higher value, as deemed necessary to ensure safety and continuity of your travel program, and notify travelers accordingly.

We also welcome you visit our Facebook page where you can post your trip feedback, photos, video, etc: <http://www.facebook.com/alluringamericas>

Enjoy your travels.

# Important Contacts:

**IMPORTANT TIP:** When dialing any of the overseas numbers below from a US cell phone or US landline, dial 011 + numbers mentioned.

## **Prior to your departure from the USA:**

ALLURING AMERICAS USA  
24/7 Emergency Number: +1-772-285-2002

## **While in Argentina:** ALLURING AMERICAS ARGENTINA

(Represented by: ELEGANT SOUTH AMERICA)  
24/7 Emergency Numbers:  
Emma Fontanet: +54 9 11 3196 3766 or +54 9 11 4993 2721  
When dialing from an Argentina based number, dial 15 3196 3766 or 15 4993 2721.

## **While in Chile:**

ALLURING AMERICAS CHILE  
(Represented by: ACE TURISMO)  
Tel: +56 2 335 6230  
24/7 Emergency Numbers  
Jose Manuel: +56 9 9232 0421  
Alvaro Gonzalez: +56 9 7977 9785  
When dialing the Emergency Numbers from a Chile based number, from a fixed line, dial 09 9232 0421 or 09 7977 9785. When dialing from a Chile mobile number, dial 7977 9785

## Your Accommodations:

**IMPORTANT TIP:** When dialing any of the overseas numbers below from a US cell phone or US landline, dial 011 + numbers mentioned.

### **Jan 26 – 30, 2012 (4 nights)**

Loi Suites Recoleta  
Vicente López 1955  
Buenos Aires  
Tel: +54 11 5777 8950

### **Jan 30 – 31, 2012 (1 night)**

Hotel Dreams del Estrecho  
O'Higgins 1235  
Punta Arenas  
Tel: +56 61 204 500

### **Jan 31 – Feb 7, 2012 (7 nights)**

Aboard the Via Australis  
For emergencies, call the respective phone number  
For Sat and Sun: +56 61 200 271 (cell phone)  
For Mon to Fri: +56 2 442 3116. Ask for Susana Mendoza.  
Leave a message with a call back number.  
Your message will then be relayed to the guest aboard the vessel who would call you back from the ship using their emergency satellite phone.

### **Feb 7 – 11, 2012 (4 nights)**

Explora Patagonia  
Torres del Paine National Park  
Patagonia  
Tel: +56 2 3952580, +56 2 395258 or +56 2 3952582

### **Feb 11 – 12, 2012 (1 night)**

Holiday Inn Santiago Airport  
Aeropuerto Internacional-Santiago  
Armando Cortinez Norte 2150  
Santiago  
Tel + 56 2 799 9900

### **Feb 12 – 15, 2012 (3 nights)**

Explora Easter Island  
Easter Island  
Tel: +56 2 3952700, +56 2 3952701, +56 2 3952702, +56 2 3952703, +56 2 3952704

## Trip Itinerary:

### **JAN 26 – ARRIVE BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA**

Welcome to Argentina. On arrival into Buenos Aires this morning, you will need to clear Immigration and Customs. Note, US passport holders are required to pay an Immigration Reciprocity Fee of \$140 per person (subject to change) at Immigration Control (can be paid by cash or credit card). Upon exiting the Customs Hall, you are met by our **Alluring Americas Argentina** representative and transferred by private vehicle to your hotel.

Buenos Aires is a city of contrasts with a variegated heritage that is reflected at every corner, creating a unique style. In this cosmopolitan city, the glamour and elegance of its European roots are interwoven with its undeniable Latin American essence. As a center of intense cultural activity, Buenos Aires offers the traveler innumerable opportunities for entertainment, visiting museums and historical sites, enjoying the best restaurants and traditional coffee houses and delightful shopping at the most important boutiques, antique shops and art galleries.

This afternoon, enjoy a private guided city tour. Learn about the history and culture of the city as you visit the most fascinating and emblematic barrios (neighborhoods) of Buenos Aires along the traditional streets. Begin in Plaza de Mayo where you will visit the incredible Metropolitan Cathedral and then, continue to the traditional quarter of San Telmo, with its classic antiques, houses and tanguerías. Head towards La Boca, where you will visit Caminito and after this authentic experience you'll visit the exclusive quarter of Puerto Madero with its renewed docks and fancy restaurants, before arriving in the northern part of the city and San Martin Square. Also take in the Palermo Forrest, a beautiful area and one of the greenest areas in the city and end in the exclusive quarter of Recoleta with its world-famous Recoleta Cemetery.

#### **Overnight Loi Suites Recoleta (Studio Junior Room)**

**No Meals Included Today**

### **JAN 27 – BUENOS AIRES | THE PAMPAS | BUENOS AIRES**

**TODAY'S ACTIVITY IS SHARED WITH OTHER GUESTS:** Enjoy a country day in the picturesque Argentinean Pampas, a little over an hour from Buenos Aires. The Pampas is an immense plain that covers the central area which surrounds the city of Buenos Aires across almost 600 miles. The flatlands of the Pampas are the quintessence of Argentina. They are covered by grasslands that support cattle and agriculture.

Your country day outing brings you to Estancia La Alameda, an authentic Argentine ranch that still belongs to the same family of Italian immigrants, who continue hosting visitors with traditional hospitality. You will be introduced to the most genuine aspects of Argentina's countryside culture. At the estancia, included is a tour of the ranch on horseback or in a

carriage, a lunch of authentic Argentine barbecue (asado) with the finest beef, malbec wine, drinks and desserts, a delightful folkloric gaucho party with live music and dance, a visit to the ranch's ecological reserve, and a gaucho exhibition of riding skills. You will also have some free time to enjoy the ranch facilities and to admire the magnificence of the Argentinean Pampa before you return to the big metropolis of Buenos Aires.

**Overnight Loi Suites Recoleta (Studio Junior Room)**  
**Breakfast, Lunch Included Today**

### **JAN 28 – BUENOS AIRES**

Your day is at leisure. One can either explore independently or arrange for optional tours.

This evening, you will head to Tango Porteño to get in close contact with the sensual music and dance of the Tango, Argentina's major cultural export, accompanied by dinner. The cultural and economic scenario following the Second World War, along with the onset of new creators, the social context, and the public acceptance resulted in the popular tango boom in the Buenos Aires of 1940, and a cultural movement called the Golden Decade. Those days over fifty orchestras performed at cabarets, discos, cafes, restaurants and ball rooms on a daily basis. Such was the tango boom and extent that even the great sports clubs such as River Plate, San Lorenzo, Racing Club and the Luna Park itself opened their doors to large audiences in attendance carried away by the tango fever prevailing all over Buenos Aires, which had already become the "City of Tango."

A little more than five decades after, Tango Porteño recreates those golden days – the undisputable tango kingdom and the great passion of the entire Argentine society- amid magic and mystery. Tango Porteño suggests walking through those days of glory in Buenos Aires when the tango was breathed and enjoyed in every corner of the city. Tango Porteño recovers the spirit of Tango crystallized in a unique place. Magically it recreates the best and most transcendental time ever in the history of tango framed within a luxurious building of those days that used to be a movie theater of the Metro Goldwyn Meyer. The old and beloved Metro, just a few steps away from the Obelisk today becomes Tango Porteño, a place blending the most refined environment and pure golden days' deco with great artists, unbeatable productions, and first class cuisine paying home to the represented time. It could not be otherwise because Tango Porteño is the image of Buenos Aires, the "City of Tango."

**Overnight Loi Suites Recoleta (Studio Junior Room)**  
**Breakfast, Dinner Included Today**

### **JAN 29 – BUENOS AIRES | SAN ISIDRO & TIGRE | BUENOS AIRES**

Today, you will enjoy a full day private guided excursion to San Isidro & Tigre. Lunch is included. It may be hard to believe that a few minutes from the chaos of the city, nature and silence seem to have defeated concrete and the frenzy of urban life. This visit to San Isidro,

Buenos Aires' most exclusive residential district, and Tigre, the gateway to the astonishing Paraná River Delta, will allow you to enjoy nature and fresh air from the river. The first stop will be San Isidro, an upscale residential district with tree-lined streets, spectacular houses and a peaceful atmosphere. The San Isidro Racetrack with its 148 hectares and capacity for 100,000 people, rivals the most exclusive European clubs, and is truly a sight not to miss, where horses train in a bucolic setting. Continue to San Isidro's elegant and well-preserved historical quarters. The Neogothical San Isidro Labrador Cathedral, built between 1895 and 1898, houses many important pieces of art and relics, among them the uncorrupted bone of St. Isidore, sent as a present by the King of Spain in 1929. Around the Cathedral, there are mansions that in Argentina's Golden Era were the weekend resort of the Buenos Aires elite, such as the Anchorena House, which now houses the very exclusive San Juan el Precursor High School, or the Pueyrredón House, a Pompeyan style villa built in 1790, presently a museum. Finally, climb down to the River Plate Viewpoint.

The city of Tigre is the gateway to the Paraná River Delta, a 14,000 square kilometers natural wonder. It encompasses thousands of luscious green islands filled with autochthonous species. Sailing the Delta, you will be surprised to learn how more and more Argentineans are choosing to live away from civilization, without any of the amenities urban dwellers take for granted, a mere 30 kilometers from Buenos Aires. After a nice hour of sailing, we arrive at the elegant Paseo Victorica, where the Tigre Club & Casino is located. This splendid building, recently renovated and restored, presently houses the Municipal Museum of Fine Arts. If open, enjoy a guided visit around the Museum, which hosts an important figurative art collection. Finally return to Buenos Aires.

**Overnight Loi Suites Recoleta (Studio Junior Room)**

**Breakfast, Lunch Included Today**

**JAN 30 – BUENOS AIRES | SANTIAGO, CHILE | PUNTA ARENAS**

Very early this morning, you will be transferred to the international airport for your flight to Santiago, Chile.

Welcome to Chile. Upon arrival in Santiago, first follow the line to pay the \$140 per person Chile Immigration Reciprocity Fee which is levied to US passport holders. This can be paid by cash or credit card and a stamp shall be placed in your passport, valid for the life of your passport. Then proceed to clear Immigration & Customs formalities. Upon claiming your luggage and passing through Customs, recheck your luggage on to your onward destination, Punta Arenas. You will then have about a 6 hour layover before your flight to Punta Arenas, the largest and oldest city in Patagonia.

Upon arrival into Punta Arenas early this evening, you are met by the **Alluring Americas Chile** representative and transferred to your hotel. Punta Arenas was established in 1848 on the shores of the Strait of Magellan, the most important natural maritime passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean, at a crossroads of old sailors, pirates, and aboriginal tribes, which today are practically extinct. The rich history of Punta Arenas has materialized into an interesting architecture which was popular at the end of the last century.

**Overnight Dreams Hotel del Estrecho (Standard Room)  
Breakfast Included Today\***

\*Though our negotiated hotel rates include complimentary breakfast, due to your very early morning departure in Buenos Aires, the Loi Suites Recoleta may not be able to serve breakfast as the restaurant may not be open yet.

**JAN 31 – PUNTA ARENAS | EMBARK 4-NIGHT PATAGONIA CRUISE TO USHUAIA, ARGENTINA**

This morning enjoy a private guided tour of Punta Arenas which includes the well-planned avenues, squares and some of the monuments of the city. See the Patagonian Institute which houses the Museo del Recuerdo, with a collection of antique farm and industrial machinery imported from Europe, a typical pioneer house and shearing shed (both reconstructed), and a wooden-wheeled trailer that served as shelter for shepherds. Visit the Maggiorino Borgatello Salesian Museum, which exhibits fabulous collections of the Magellan flora and fauna specimens, exclusive folklore and crafts of the indigenous tribes (yaganes, tehuelches onas and alacalufes) who inhabited the territory. Also visit the Braun-Menendez Regional Museum, located in the mansion of the same name. The museum is a National Monument and was inaugurated in 1983 and traces the discovery, colonization and development of the Magallanes region through historical objects, illustrations and photographs. See the famous cemetery which contains a memorial to the indigenous people of the region as well as the huge mausoleums built years ago by the area's wealthy families.

Then, over the next 7 nights, experience one of the most memorable journeys of a lifetime sailing through the Strait of Magellan and Beagle Channel where you will explore two of the most beautiful and untouched places on Earth: Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, the southernmost region in the world, where the mountains meet the ocean, the silence is moving, and the flora, fauna, and geography awaken the senses. In this virgin and magical area, our Via Australis expedition cruise will sail past glaciers, marine mammals, Magellanic penguins, and exuberant vegetation. Sail through the legendary maritime channels all the way to Cape Horn, an unimaginably pure and strikingly beautiful zone.



As you sail the first 4 night, Punta Arenas (Chile) - Ushuaia (Argentina) route, enjoy the stunning, natural beauty of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. You will experience a great adventure to the uttermost End of the Earth, with accommodations aboard an amazingly comfortable ship accompanied by expert crew and guides. Their mission in addition to safety is to make sure your journey is remarkable and unforgettable.

On the return 3 night, traveling through the Ushuaia (Argentina) – Punta Arenas (Chile) route, you will enjoy the splendor and beauty of unique natural scenery and wildlife. Be ready to discover many fascinating landscapes. This three-night trip is capped by going ashore on the Magdalena Island which houses a colony of Magellanic penguins. We will make sure to provide a Patagonia vacation that you will never forget.

**NOTE:** The excursions/day trips described in the cruise itinerary below can normally be, and are frequently, carried out. Cruceros Australis Patagonia Cruises reserves the right to reschedule, shorten or alter all or part of itineraries and/or excursions without previous notice, in order to safeguard the well being and safety of passengers, preserve the environment or due to the extraordinary circumstances, acts of god or force majeure. For the same reasons, the hours of departure or arrival of the vessels may be subject to change.

This afternoon, you will be transferred to the Cruceros Australis terminal at Magallanes 990, Punta Arenas for check in. Once you and your luggage are checked in, you are at leisure to do as you wish. Cruise ship boarding scheduled begins at 6:00 p.m. The captain and crew give a welcome cocktail reception on board and afterwards the ship departs on your great adventure!

**Overnight aboard the Via Australis (Category AA cabin)**  
**Breakfast, Dinner Included Today**

### **FEB 1 – PATAGONIA CRUISE (Ainsworth Bay & Tuckers Islet)**

At dawn, we continue navigating through Almirantazgo Sound, arriving at Ainsworth Bay, inside the Alberto De Agostini National Park. From a distance we may see the Marinelli Glacier which descends from the Darwin Mountain Range, and we will learn how life begins after the retreat of the ice. We will also take a walk to discover a beaver dam in the marvelous subpolar Magellanic forest. On the beach, we will try to see elephant seals, but we cannot guarantee this as the precise location of the colony is unpredictable. Later, we sail to Tuckers Islets, and after lunch we board the Zodiac boats to view Magellanic Penguins (which only live in the Southern Hemisphere), and Cormorants. In September and April this excursion is replaced by Brookes Bay where we land for a short walk to approach a glacier.

**Overnight aboard the Via Australis (Category AA cabin)**  
**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Included Today**

## **FEB 2 – PATAGONIA CRUISE (Pia Glacier & Glacier Alley)**

We navigate along the main part of the Beagle Channel to reach Pia Fjord, where we disembark near Pia Glacier. We take a short hike to a look-out point with a spectacular view of the entire glacier tongue, stretching from high in the mountains all the way to the sea. After this unforgettable experience, we continue sailing along the northwest arm of the Beagle Channel through majestic Glacier Alley.

**Overnight aboard the Via Australis (Category AA cabin)**

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Included Today**

## **FEB 3 – PATAGONIA CRUISE (Cape Horn & Wulaia Bay)**

We sail through the Murray Channel and Nassau Bay to reach Cape Horn National Park, where we will disembark (weather permitting). The mythical Cape Horn was discovered in 1616, and it is a sheer, 425-meter (1,394-foot) high rocky promontory. For many years it was an important navigation route between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, and it is known as the End of the Earth. The park was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in June 2005. In the afternoon, we go ashore at historic Wulaia Bay, once the site of one of the region's largest Yamana aboriginal settlements. Charles Darwin landed here on January 23rd, 1833, during the voyage of the HMS Beagle. This area is also renowned for the mesmerizing beauty of its vegetation and geography. We will walk through a Magellanic forest of Lengas, Coihues, Canelos, ferns, and other native vegetation to reach a look-out point.

**Overnight aboard the Via Australis (Category AA cabin)**

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Included Today**

## **FEB 4 – END 4-NIGHT PATAGONIA CRUISE | USHUAIA, ARGENTINA | COMMENCE 3-NIGHT PATAGONIA CRUISE ROUTE TO PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE**

Arrive at Ushuaia, Argentina's most important and southernmost city in the world on Tierra del Fuego. Disembark at 8:00 a.m. You are met by our **Alluring Americas Argentina** representative who will take you on a private guided excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park inclusive of a ride on the Train to End of the World.

The Tierra del Fuego National Park offers you the perfect opportunity to explore some of the most ravishing and special landscapes near the city of Ushuaia in Argentina's southernmost national park. Acquaint yourself with unique local ecosystems before relaxing by the stunning bays and channels to discover Patagonian nature at its very best. First, board the Train to the End of the World. Relax and travel along the historical route while absorbing exceptional and diverse natural landscapes of Patagonia, all from the comfort of your seat! The Train to the End of the World, also known as "the convict train" will depart from the traditional wooden End of the World Station and begin the historical journey along the original embankment that was once used by convicts. You will be taken into the depths of native lenga and ñire forests, passing the Cañadon del Toro (canyon of the bull) and the old burnt bridge before stopping at the Cascada

de la Macarena where you can visit an Aboriginal camp and the cascade itself. Continue to pass by rivers, lakes and peat bogs, ending the journey in at Parque Station in the northwest sector of the valley. There you'll find our vehicle awaiting you to take you to Ensenada Bay where you will be left speechless by the sublime outlook from the shore, which reveals spectacular views of the Beagle Channel, Redonda Island, Lake Roca and finally, Lapataia Bay. On this excursion, you will enjoy all the ingredients that make the landscape indescribably beautiful and typically Patagonian.

Return back to Ushuaia for lunch. This afternoon, you will be transferred to the Cruceros Australis check-in office at San Martin 409, Ushuaia. Check in takes place between 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., with cruise ship boarding from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. The captain and crew give a welcome cocktail reception on board, and afterwards the ship departs for the journey through one of the most captivating wilderness regions in the world.

**Overnight aboard the Via Australis (Category AA cabin)**  
**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Included Today**

### **FEB 5 – PATAGONIA CRUISE (Cape Horn and Wulaia Bay)**

We sail through the Murray Channel and Nassau Bay to reach Cape Horn National Park, where we will disembark (weather permitting). The mythical Cape Horn was discovered in 1616, and it is a sheer, 425-meter (1,394-foot) high rocky promontory. For many years it was an important navigation route between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, and it is known as the "End of the Earth" The park was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in June 2005. In the afternoon, we go ashore at historic Wulaia Bay, once the site of one of the region's largest Yamana aboriginal settlements. Charles Darwin landed here on January 23rd, 1833, during the voyage of the HMS Beagle. This area is also renowned for the mesmerizing beauty of its vegetation and geography. We will walk through a Magellanic forest of Lengas, Coihues, Canelos, ferns, and other native vegetation to reach a look-out point.

**Overnight aboard the Via Australis (Category AA cabin)**  
**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Included Today**

### **FEB 6 – PATAGONIA CRUISE (Águila Glacier)**

We will sail through the Brecknock, Ocasión, Cockburn, and Magdalena Channels to enter the spectacular Agostini Sound, In the heart of the Darwin Cordillera, in Tierra del Fuego. Here you can see the glaciers flowing down the mountainside, often all the way to the sea. In the afternoon we will get into the Zodiac boats and head to the Águila Glacier where we will take an easy walk on the shore of a lagoon surrounded by mountains until we reach the base of the glacier. We will learn about Patagonia's cold rainforest and the forces that molded the landscape.

**Overnight aboard the Via Australis (Category AA cabin)**  
**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Included Today**

**FEB 7, 8, 9, 10 – PATAGONIA CRUISE (Magdalena Island) | DISEMBARK CRUISE IN PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE | TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK**

On Feb 7, early in the morning, we go ashore on Magdalena Island (weather permitting). Located in the Strait of Magellan, it was an essential source of supplies for navigators and explorers in the past. The island is inhabited by an immense colony of Magellanic Penguins which can be sighted during our walk to a lighthouse, which guides ships on their way through the strait. In September and April this excursion is replaced by a Zodiac boat ride at Marta Island to observe sea lions. After our visit, we sail to Punta Arenas, disembarking at 11:30 a.m.

You will be picked up at the cruise terminal by **Explora Patagonia**. Commence the 4 night Explora Patagonia package. The included transfer to the lodge located at Torres del Paine National Park will take about 5 hours. Patagonia is the southernmost region of the American continent and one of the least populated areas in the world. Millions of years ago, it underwent major geological and glaciological transformations which created mountains, glaciers, lakes and rivers. Today this region is home to an extensive variety of plants and animals, many of which are native to the area.

Explora Patagonia is your base for exploring Patagonia. It is the only lodge at the center of Torres del Paine National Park, home to diverse and pristine ecosystems. The lodge is located right at the heart of the extraordinary Torres del Paine National Park in central Patagonia. The varied and untouched landscapes of this area led UNESCO to declare it a biosphere reserve.

Explora Patagonia opened in 1993 on the banks of the Salto Chico waterfall. It affords an excellent view of the unique Paine Massif and two of the three impressive torres, or towers, which give the park its name. Situated on a 3-hectare (7.4-acre) site, the design borrows certain organic forms from the landscape itself, adapting to it with simple elegance. It was designed to create a dialogue with its environment, putting human beings in touch with the sublimity of their surroundings. The lodge has 50 comfortable rooms, all with captivating views, silence and privacy. The sophisticated design incorporates native lenga wood and cypress brought from the Guaitecas Archipelago, while the floor is made of almond wood. Each room has a small living area, hydromassage bath and beds designed for deep, pleasurable sleep after a day of exploration. And for a unique treat - the rooms are television-free!

Facilities include the Casa de Baños del Ona (Ona Bath House), Estancia 2 de Enero (January 2 Ranch) and Stables. Located 109 yards from the lodge and reached by a sloping wooden walkway, the Casa de Baños del Ona has a heated indoor swimming pool, a sauna and four open-air jacuzzis, all with views of Lago Pehoé and Macizo del Paine. Here you can also enjoy different types of massage with essential oils, such as therapeutic, relaxing or energizing massage. Patagonia is more than just pristine landscapes; it is home to the unique and legendary gaucho culture. At Estancia 2 de Enero, you can drink —mate|| tea with gauchos and watch them shear sheep, drive livestock, break in horses and carry out other typical ranching

tasks on this 6,000-hectare (14,826-acre) estancia, which belongs to Explora and is located 53 kilometers (33 miles) from the lodge.

Explora Patagonia is the only lodge in the area with its own horses, which have been bred and trained especially for our travelers to ride. The stables are 9 kilometers (5.6 miles) from the lodge in an area of 593 meters<sup>2</sup> (709 yards<sup>2</sup>). They are home to 26 horses of different breeds and mixes, especially trained by Explora for riding in the area. The horses were bred at the stud farm belonging to the Ibáñez family in Chile's central valley. A team led by veterinary horse specialist Gaela Hourcq is responsible for feeding and grooming the horses. The horses are constantly cared for by Gaela and her team of two stable managers, a blacksmith and three stable hands.

For travelers, the lodge provides the welcome surprise of comfort in a remote area; nonetheless, you are not isolated from nature, but placed —within it. Luxury of the essential is the concept behind the food we prepare. We seek to enhance the original flavors of selected ingredients, avoiding excess and alteration. Our cuisine offers authentic flavors based on the best-quality ingredients, many of which are produced locally. The food is healthy and well-balanced, ideal for people going trekking, horseback riding or on other explorations. Our menus include some of the best local dishes, such as Magellanic lamb, southern king crab and delicious fish and vegetables. In the quincho (barbecue area), for example, you can enjoy traditional spit-roast lamb prepared by Patagonian gauchos, or a home-made empanada (Chilean turnover) filled with meat and corn. To accompany your meal, you may choose from a wide variety of wines from the Gracia, Porta, Agustinos and Veranda wineries. We have different varietals from Chile's main wine-producing areas. If you would like to explore Chilean wine in greater depth, you may wish to consult our premium list; these wines are available at additional charge.

At Explora Patagonia, we offer over 35 different explorations. On foot or horseback, for a couple of hours or a full day, gentle or more physically demanding. Our series of explorations will enable you to discover the landscapes and wildlife of this singular place, and get to know the diverse ecosystems and living creatures that have lived here for millions of years, as well as the unique way of life of its human inhabitants: the gauchos. The explorations are safe and are made up of groups with a maximum of 8 people, accompanied by an expert bilingual guide. All our guides speak excellent Spanish and English and some also speak French and German. The longer explorations include open-air picnics. Sometimes we use minibuses or motorboats for sections of the route. We celebrate each change of season and weather. Rain, wind, an unexpected snowstorm or a day of bright sunshine are all part of the experience. The key is to be well-equipped so you can enjoy the journey to the full. Each afternoon, one of our guides will meet with you in the lodge bar to tell you about the explorations planned for the following day and help you with the difficult task of choosing between the seven to 14 different options, all of them exciting. Our guides hold substantial knowledge about the area and all have

Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification, which guarantees that they have the expertise and skills necessary to provide assistance to people in remote areas.

### **INCLUDED EXCURSIONS IN YOUR EXPLORA PATAGONIA PACKAGE**

**Treks:** Trekking makes it possible for you to contemplate your surroundings in an unhurried and meaningful way. When you trek, you can look at things more closely and carefully. In our treks in the park, we cross forests of mature lenga trees (*Nothofagus pumilio*), remote pampas and rivers. We trek alongside glaciers, lakes and enormous, mountainous formations of magma and granite. At Explora Patagonia, we offer almost 20 different treks, some lasting half a day, others a full day. We take little-used footpaths to arrive at the most isolated corners of this area, which are rich in flora, fauna and adventures. We always seek to adjust to the rhythm of each person, enjoying each step of the journey.

**Horseback Rides:** An essential element in the life of a gaucho, the horse has been the traditional way of covering the vast distances in Patagonia, among other things making it possible for the few inhabitants on remote estancias in the pampa to stay in touch with one another. At Explora Patagonia we offer 14 different horseback rides. The rides start at the stables or the quincho and are always accompanied by both a guide and a gaucho. The horses have been specially trained for explorations by Explora. We provide horses, equipment and routes suitable for those who are new to riding as well as children and expert riders. We also offer a basic course for those who wish to learn how to ride horseback. The equipment we use is of the highest quality Chilean saddles, hand-made by a master craftsman; British saddles; Argentine leather chaps; and helmets.

#### **Overnight Explora Patagonia (Salto Chico Room)**

**Breakfast, Dinner Included on Feb 7**

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Included on Feb 8, 9, 10**

#### **FEB 11 – TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK | PUNTA ARENAS | SANTIAGO**

Explora Patagonia will transfer you back to Punta Arenas. Check in for your flight to Santiago, On arrival, proceed on your own to your airport hotel located across from the terminal building (walking distance).

**Overnight at the Holiday Inn Santiago Airport Hotel (Standard Room)**

**Breakfast Included Today**

## **FEB 12, 13, 14 – EASTER ISLAND**

Walk back to the terminal and check in for your flight to Easter Island. On arrival, you are met by **Explora Easter Island** and transferred to their hotel. Located 3,700 kilometers (2,237 miles) from the American continent, surrounded by the world's most transparent waters, Rapa Nui is the cradle of an unusual and enigmatic culture which persists to this day. The language, music and many traditions remain alive amongst the island's inhabitants, while the enormous carved stone moai tell of a more remote past. The explorations we offer on Rapa Nui use Explora Easter Island (Posada de Mike Rapu) as our base. The lodge is located on a hill in the Te Miro Oone area in the center of the island. All of the 30 rooms, which extend to the north and south from a central building, have excellent ocean views. The lodge has welcoming indoor spaces which integrate aspects of the local culture. The design is intended to have minimal impact on its surroundings. The lodge is built on a site which is inappropriate for agricultural use and has no archaeological remains. The flora surrounding the lodge has been maintained intact.

At Explora Rapa Nui we offer more than 15 different explorations. On foot or by bicycle, for a couple of hours or a full day, gentle or more physically demanding. Our range of explorations enable you to get to know in depth the culture and geography of Rapa Nui with its ancestral, megalithic constructions and the special idiosyncracies of its people. More extensive explorations include open-air picnics. The explorations are safe and made up of groups with a maximum of 10 people, accompanied by an expert bilingual guide. All our guides speak excellent Spanish and English and some also speak French and German. Each afternoon, one of our guides will meet with you in the lodge bar to tell you about the explorations planned for the following day and help you with the challenging task of choosing between different options, all of them exciting. Our guides hold substantial knowledge about the area and all have Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification, which ensures that they have the expertise and skills necessary to provide assistance to people in remote places.

### **INCLUDED EXCURSIONS IN YOUR EXPLORA EASTER ISLAND PACKAGE**

**Treks:** Trekking on Rapa Nui not only gives you a greater understanding of your surroundings but also enables you to talk to the people of the area more easily and openly than you could on any other type of exploration. Our treks enable you to get to know the geography of the island, its volcanos, cliffs and beaches, and important archaeological heritage sites such as the moai and the ahus, the ceremonial platforms on which they are situated. We always seek to adjust to the rhythm of each person, enjoying each step of the journey.

**Cycling Trips:** At Explora Rapa Nui we offer a range of explorations by bicycle on gently sloping terrain. These explorations enable you to get to know the flora and local subsistence agriculture and view the moai and other archaeological remains from the island's days of splendor centuries ago. You can also enjoy the island's beaches,

amongst other things. The routes have different levels of difficulty, which makes them ideal for the whole family to enjoy. We provide all the equipment needed: Cannondale and Trek bicycles with front shock absorbers, helmets and gloves for a great Rapa Nui bicycle tour. If you would like to go by yourself to the town of Hanga Roa, 8 kilometers (5 miles) from the lodge or to the Oahe and Anakena beaches, a similar distance away – highly recommended outings– we will have one of our bicycles ready for you. Please make arrangements with the reception desk.

**At Sea:** We offer a range of explorations using traditional local boats in the sea surrounding Rapa Nui, as well as snorkeling and fishing. The journey by boat along the coastline and to nearby islands takes you into one of Rapa Nui's most important dimensions. You will be seeing the island in the same way as the first mariners who arrived from far away Oceania and Europe. Snorkeling enables you to explore the Earth's most transparent waters, with excellent visibility up to a depth of 50 meters (164 feet). The temperature of the sea is about 20°C (68°F). The water is rich in life, with corals and a wide variety of native fish of different shapes and colors. We provide all the equipment needed: snorkel, mask, flippers, wetsuit and booties. On our sea explorations, we also offer the opportunity to go tuna fishing, practicing the traditional methods used by the island's inhabitants for centuries.

**Overnight Explora Easter Island – Posada de Mike Rapu (Varua Room)  
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Included Daily**

**FEB 15 – DEPART EASTER ISLAND TO THE USA**

Explora Easter Island will transfer you to the airport for your flight to Lima, Peru. Connect with your homebound overnight flight to the USA.

**Breakfast Included Today**



**LAND ARRANGEMENTS ARE INCLUSIVE OF:**

- Hotel accommodations as stated inclusive of hotel taxes.
- All meals as indicated.
- All airport transfers as indicated inclusive of baggage handling assistance and gratuities to porters at airports who assist with loading/unloading luggage in/out of our transfer vehicles.
- All excursions as indicated, inclusive of entrance and national park fees.
- Experienced and professional English speaking guides, for all included guided excursions.
- Excursions to the Pampas, with Via Australis, Explora Patagonia and Explora Easter Island include guides supplied by the company/outfitter providing the excursion, not Alluring Americas. Excursions are not private but shared with other guests.
- All vehicular transportation with driver for airport transfers and tours.
- 24/7 Emergency Handling assistance and local concierge service assistance by our in-country representative.

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- Any airfares.
- Any passport and visa expenses. US passport holders require a passport to be valid for at least 6 months from entry date into any country in South America.
- Costs of obtaining any inoculations.
- Any excess baggage charges.
- Any items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar and beverage charges (unless specified otherwise as included above) and telecommunication charges.
- Any gratuities to guides, drivers and porters at hotels.
- Any meals and services not specified.

## **GENERAL TIPPING SUGGESTIONS:**

Gratuities are left to your discretion and always appreciated. It is our recommendation that the quality of service should determine the extent of any gratuity. We are pleased to provide you with the following guidelines. Please feel free to offer more if you receive superlative service. For private tours, guides and drivers should be tipped separately and individually. US\$ cash is accepted for gratuities as is local currency. When providing payment in US\$ cash, please do not give dirty, torn or tattered bills or coins.

- **Private Tour Guides:** US\$10 per person for tour of 5 hours less in duration, US\$15 per person for a tour of more than 5 hours. If the guide is accompanying you for several days, we recommend you tip when his/her services have ended.
- **Tour Guides and Drivers on Shared Tours:** US\$10 per person to be distributed amongst guides and drivers and any other personnel involved with operating the tour.
- **Drivers on Guided Tours:** US\$5 per person for tour of 5 hours less in duration, US\$10 per person for a tour of more than 5 hours. If the driver is accompanying you for several days, we recommend you tip when his/her services have ended. If the driver is also guiding, refer to guide gratuity recommendations above.
- **Airport transfer drivers:** US\$3 per person per transfer as long as transfer is between airport and hotels located within the city of arrival or departure. When transfers are to a destination outside of the city, we suggest US\$5 per person.
- **At explora lodges:** US\$ 100 per traveler per entire duration of stay.
- **Aboard Via Australis:** US\$15 per day per person is suggested, to be settled at the reception lounge on the last day of the cruise.