

10 DAY NORTHERN PATAGONIA CRUISE

Puerto Montt – Puerto Chacabuco

Vast, exotic, wild and infinite in its beauty. That's how Patagonia was described by the explorers who arrived here almost 500 years ago. Little has changed to this day. Visitors will discover a truly unspoiled wilderness of mountains, fjords, glaciers, forests and steppes.

For a real once-in-a-lifetime adventure, exploring the southernmost extreme of the American continent, navigating through countless sea fjords and channels and crossing the famous Straits of Magellan before setting sail for Antarctica, is an experience that visitors will never forget in their life.

Visitors can marvel at the imposing millennial glaciers (of which there are hundreds) and experience close encounters with whales, dolphins, penguins and killer whales. They can even make Cape Horn – the southernmost tip of the continent – their destination, or continue by sea to Antarctica – truly a scientific and ecological treasure.

The countless islands, channels, inlets, glaciers and coves along the southern Patagonia of Chile between Puerto Montt and Puerto Williams can satisfy the thirst for discovery of even the most curious navigator. The landmarks found on the charts bear the names of mystical propensities: Cape Horn, Tierra del Fuego, Patagonia, Magellan Straight, Drake Passage, Beagle Canal, and many more. The navigators who sailed these waters are among the greatest of all time: Fernando Magallanes, Francis Drake, James Cook, Louis A. de Bougainville, Robert Fitz Roy, Charles Darwin, Joshua Slocum, Vito Dumas, Peter Blake to name a few.

A world of stunning beauty with the imposing backdrop of the Andes will be the sailor's constant companion. However, the real surprises will be provided by the great variety of landscapes, the wilderness, which remains very much as it was, when first seen by man, the numerous species of plants and animals, and the people themselves, whose natural sense of solidarity has been further strengthened by the great loneliness and harsh climate of the region.

Throughout the centuries of heroic sailing off Patagonia and Cape Horn runs the constant thread of association with strong winds and heavy gales – hardly a reputation to lure small yachts. Nevertheless, more and more crews have left the boring and steamy tropics to steer their vessels bravely south. Better knowledge of meteorology, together with the improved technologies of boat building and handling, have greatly increased the confidence of sailors and widened the horizon of their routes, to include areas considered among the worst in the planet. These seas are now faced with increasing tranquility, a trend clearly demonstrated by numbers. This is proven by the increasing number of yachts that visit Patagonia each year and return mesmerized by the natural beauty of the places they visit

The Chilean Patagonia is delimited by the city of Puerto Montt in the north and Puerto Williams in the south. These cities are separated by almost 1,000 miles as the crow flies, but by close to 1,300 nautical miles of navigation through some of the most breath-taking views on this planet.



Northern Patagonia: Glaciers and Waterfalls

GETTING THERE

To visit Patagonia on a 10 day cruise, the first decision that has to be made is to visit northern, central or southern Patagonia, as in this period of time yachts will not be able to cover all of Patagonia, with all the sights that this amazing region has to offer.

Northern Patagonia offers some amazing and stunning areas to visit and is somewhat more inhabited than the southern Patagonia. Also when planning a Northern Patagonia cruise, it can also include visiting the beautiful lake and volcano district just north of Puerto Montt before and/or after the cruise.



Puerto Varas by Lago Llanquihue

For a Northern Patagonia cruise guests should arrive at Puerto Montt's El Tepual International Airport (PMC) via private/chartered jet or on a commercial flight. Transfer to the marina will take about 30 minutes and guests will be ready to board the yacht. If any guests arrive a few days early we highly recommend to visit the area around Puerto Varas on the Lago Llanquihue, about 45 minutes north of Puerto Montt.

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Kayaking, stand-up paddle, fishing, trekking, climbing, photography, ATV's, city-sight-seeing, helicopter sight-seeing.



Puerto Montt - Marina Oxeean

DAY 1: PUERTO MONTT AIRPORT TO CALETA PORCELANA – (70 NM / 7 hrs)

Cruise south through the Seno Reloncavi (sound) and Golfo de Ancud to enter the Comau Fjord (also known as Leptepu Fjord), a beautiful 22 mile long inlet. At its entrance is the Quintupeu inlet, where the German battleship Dresden under command of Admiral von Spee found refuge during the escape following the lost battle of the Falklands in 1915. The landscape along the fjord is

majestic, with high and steep mountains at which end lies Caleta Porcelana, where a hot stream flowing in the forest creates natural pools of water.



Entrance to Caleta Porcelana



Seals at Caleta Porcelana

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Kayaking, stand-up paddle, fishing, trekking, climbing, flora & fauna, photography, helicopter sight-seeing.

DAY 2: CALETA PORCELANA TO ISLA MECHUQUE (55 NM / 6 hrs)

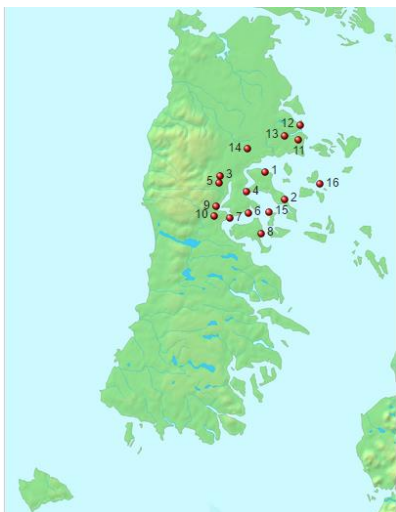
Cruise across the Golfo Ancud towards Isla Mechuque Island next to Chiloe island. Mechuque is part of the Islas Chauques – considered Chiloe’s most beautiful island chain – Mechuque is small but stunning. There are two museums, a splendid viewpoint, a picturesque bridge, famous “curanto al hoyo” (seafood cooked in a ground pit with hot stones and leaves) – it's like a mini Chiloe offering all of the larger archipelago's attractions condensed down into an area that makes for an easy and memorable day trip. Mechuque is also called by locals the “Venice of Chiloe” for its wooden stilt-houses, called “palafitos”.

Chiloe Island, the main island in the archipelago of the same name, is also home to pastoral landscapes and known for its iconic wooden churches. There are a lot of things and sights to discover on and around Chiloe. Since it was separated by water from the mainland, many of the local traditions have been preserved here, instead of merging with the Spanish culture after the conquest.



Chauques Islands

The UNESCO World Heritage iconic wooden churches of Chiloe can be found mostly in the center on the eastern side of the island. Built in the 18th and 19th centuries when the Chiloe Archipelago was still a part of the Spanish Crown possessions, the churches represent the fusion of European Jesuit culture and local native peoples' skill and traditions: an excellent example of mestizo culture.



Location of UNESCO protected churches

The Churches of Chiloe in Chile's Chiloe Archipelago are a unique architectural phenomenon in the Americas, and one of the most prominent styles of Chilota architecture. Unlike classical Spanish colonial architecture, the churches of Chiloe are made entirely in native timber with extensive use of wood shingles. The churches were built from materials to resist Chiloe Archipelago's humid and rainy oceanic climate.

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There are also plenty of other things to do when visiting this part of the Isla Chiloe:

- The Bahia de Caulin offers the chance to see locals actively rounding up seaweed in their daily tasks, being collected by hand and with ox-carts.
- The Bahia de Ancud also offers great views and chances for kayaking.
- An old Spanish battery can also be visited on the North side of the bay.
- The northwest coast, where blue whales gather, also has the Monumento Natural Islotes de Puñihuil, a Magellanic and Humboldt penguin breeding ground.
- Chiloe's National Park and Ahuenca region are habitat for diverse and abundant wildlife.
- Explore the islands of Lemuy, Quinchao and the peninsula of Rilan by bike or car to see some churches and enjoy the quiet rural life.
- In January and February many festivals are organized around Chiloe Island.
- Biking and discovering the island on ATV's
- Seafood, seafood, and more seafood. Delicious and abundant! Curantos and Parrilladas are a must!

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: See above.

DAY 3: ISLA MECHUQUE TO CALETA GONZALO (40 NM / 4 hrs) OVERNIGHT AT BAHIA PUMALIN– (30 NM / 3 hrs)

Cruise southeast towards Caleta Gonzalo to arrive to the 317,000 hectares / 915,000 acre Pumalin Private Nature Reserve. From a trailhead near Café Caleta Gonzalo, the Sendero Cascadas climbs and winds through thick rainforest to a high falls. The park offers many amazing trekking trails through thick Patagonian forests, guests can also visit apiaries that produce delicious Patagonian honey and there are many places for fishing.

From a trailhead south of Caleta Gonzalo, the Sendero Laguna Tronador ascends to the Mirador Michinmahuida where, a platform provides astounding views of the Chaiten Volcano summit. Many other trails such as Sendero Los Alerces which takes you across the Río Blanco to a large

alerce grove and the Sendero Cascadas Escondidas takes visitors to the majestic “hidden” falls. Sendero Lago Negro leads through dense forest to reed-lined Lago Negro. The Sendero Ventisquero Amarillo takes trekkers towards the Termas El Amarillo.



Bahia Pumalin

While the guests are on land the yacht can cruise towards Bahia Pumalin, a safe anchorage with gorgeous views of the coastline to spend the night. Parque Pumalin also offers an airstrip.

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Kayaking, stand-up paddle, trekking, climbing, flora & fauna, photography, helicopter sight-seeing.

DAY 4: BAHIA PUMALIN TO ISLA CAILIN – OVERNIGHT BAHIA HUELLONQUEN (50 NM / 5 hrs)

From Bahia Pumalin navigate southwest towards the southern part of Chiloe Island and arrive at Cailin Island, located in the Corcovado Gulf. Cailin is a small group of three islands close to the town of Quellon. It consists of Coldita, Laitec and Cailin, which gives it its name.



Cailin Island



Chiloe wooden church near Cailin

The earliest known inhabitants of the island are the Chonos nomads, who in the early eighteenth century began settling there more permanently. In 1764 the Jesuit missionaries built the Mission Caylin, where they tried to evangelize the Chonos and the Caucahués tribes separately, who had been persuaded to go live there on Cailin Island. During colonial times Isla Cailin was called the 'End of Christianity' because it was southernmost place populated by Christians in the Americas. Charles Darwin visited Cailin Island during his trip around the world and mentioned the island in his books as Caylen.

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Kayaking, stand-up paddle, fishing, trekking, flora & fauna, local culture, photography, helicopter sight-seeing.

DAY 5: ISLA CAILIN TO MELINKA (50 NM / 5 hrs)

Navigate south towards Islas Guaitecas and Archipelago de los Chonos. A varied and extraordinary system of islands and winding channels form this Archipelago, creating a natural labyrinth of extreme beauty. Winds leave the westernmost islands exposed to the Pacific Ocean rugged and barren, but a thick forest regains the land further east, luxuriant in the inner valleys and up to the top of the mountains attaining 1,680 mts / 5,512 ft in Isla Cuptana. The main islands are the Grand Isla Guaiteca and Isla Ascension.

Isla Gran Guaiteca is located in the northwest corner of the archipelago. It is the largest and most important of all, is 16 miles at its longest axis East-West and an average width of about 5 miles. Around its shoreline fish and seafood is abundant and in the fields wild vegetables can be found. It is not rare to see humpback whales in the Bahia Corcovado, as well as penguins, dolphins and sea lions.



Melinka with Volcan Corcovado in the background

Isla Ascension is located east of the Isla Gran Guaiteca. Its relief is lower than that of the Guaiteca island and measures about 11 by 6 kilometers / 7 by 4 miles. In its coast is the town of Melinka, the main commercial center of the archipelagoes of the Guaitecas and Chonos known also for its excellent smoked fish. The name Melinka was given in 1859 by the Lithuanian Felipe Westhoff, first European inhabitant in honor of his wife's first name.

The island also offers a small airstrip.

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: *Kayaking, stand-up paddle, fishing, trekking, flora & fauna, local culture, photography, helicopter sight-seeing.*

DAY 6: MELINKA TO PUYUHUAPI (70 NM or 120 NM)

Navigate south along the Canal Moraleda and enter the Canal Jacaf or the Canal Puyuhuapi further south to reach Puyuhuapi. The route chosen will depend on the draft of the vessel, as the Canal Jacaf provides a shortcut towards Puyuhuapi, but has a minimum depth of 6-7 meters / 20-23 feet. Canal Puyuhuapi however is a long and deep inlet of variable width, located in a fascinating landscape bordered by high peaks and waterfalls. After Paso Sibbald, the Puyuhuapi channel becomes Seno Ventisquero.

Tucked into the Jurassic scenery of overgrown ferns and nalca plants, this quaint seaside village is the gateway to Parque Nacional Queulat and Termas de Puyuhuapi, a prestigious hot-springs resort. In 1935 four German immigrants settled here, inspired by explorer Hans Steffen's adventures. The town sits at the northern end of the Seno Ventisquero, a scenic fjord that's part of the larger Canal Puyuhuapi.

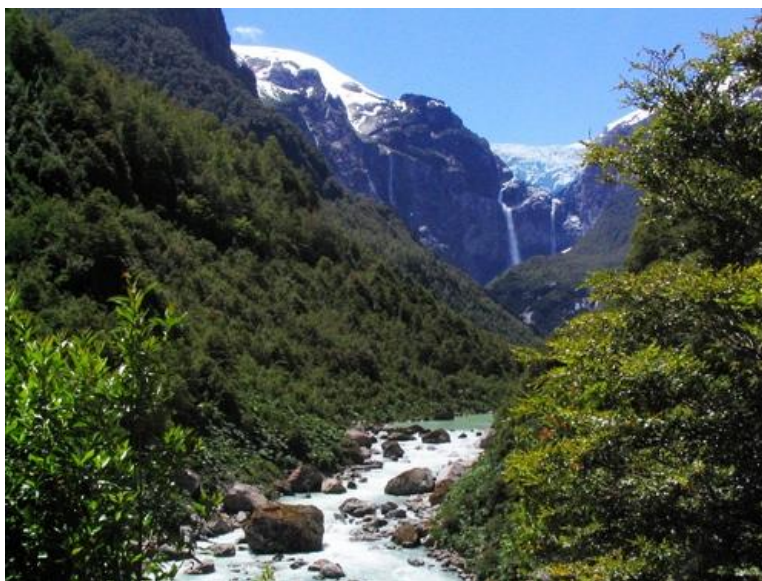
The history of Puyuhuapi, which means "Land of the Puyes" and home to the Puyes Indians has an interesting story related to the story of four young Germans, as they were the first of a series of German pioneer families who moved to this remote and still pristine area starting in 1935. The agricultural colony grew with Chilote textile workers whose skills fed the success of a factory of carpets of high quality and craftsmanship. At the end of the 1960's the German settlers were able

to build with their own means and machinery imported from Germany a road linking Puyuhuapi to the town of Los Cesares. 'Fábrica de Alfombras Puyuhuapi' can be visited to watch the production process, from the textile coloring to the finished article. The factory is still owned by the family of the original founder and the carpets can be ordered online and shipped worldwide from this small Patagonian town.

There is a variety of activities in the Puyuhuapi area,

- Trekking in the Queulat National Park through thick walls of vegetation
- Hot springs
- Local hikes to Laguna Puma and the Hanging Glacier
- Tender and kayak trips
- Fishing
- Carpet Factory visits

During your stay in Puyuhuapi, you may experience warm days with intense sunlight - perfect for a dip in the ocean. With or without sunshine, several hot springs hidden in the area are worth a visit. You can take a boat trip, fish in the surrounding rivers and lakes, hike in Queulat National Park, or explore local trails along the valley. Patagonia also offers plenty for enthusiastic birdwatchers. In the Puyuhuapi fjord from time to time dolphins and seals frolic in the bay within sight of the shore.



Queulat National Park

A hike in Puyuhuapi takes you to various points of interest throughout the village and along the seashore, up the river, and finally a little way up a mountain to a lookout where hikers will revel in a tremendous view of the town, the fjord, and the Andes Mountains on other side of the valley. Puyuhuapi is part of the Melimoyu volcanic system, which provides the entire region with hot springs along the fjord's shoreline. Bathers are truly invigorated with the combination of thermal waters and seawater.

Locally, the best fishing is at Lago Risopatron and Lago Rosselot near La Junta can produce nice trout. There are larger rivers and lakes that can be reached by helicopter such as the Rio Palena, Rio Rosselot, Rio Figueroa, Rio Queulat and Rio Cisnes where anglers can try their luck wade fishing or also at the Lago Yelcho.

The Rio Futaleufú is also a paradise for rafters and kayakers - the world's best paddlers congregate here every summer to practice their sport.



Futaleufu River Rafting

The humid temperate forest of this region is made up of southern beech (coigüe) and other endemic species, including canelo - the sacred tree of the Mapuche Indians - luma, the arrayan with its brick red bark; and many other trees. The dense strip of bamboo that rings the forest, the tree ferns and other giant ferns growing on the hillsides, the enormous leaves of the nalca plant (a kind of wild rhubarb) and the wild fuschia bushes that grow along the edges of the road impress visitors. Think twice, however, before trying the delicious calafate berry that ripens in February! Legend has it that anyone who eats calafate must return to Patagonia!



Waterfalls at Pumalin National Park

The Patagonian forest is the natural habitat of pudúes (the world's smallest deer) and pumas. It stands silent, except for its birds, including the tuetue, who announces your arrival in the forest, and the curious chucao who tags along on your hike. The waters are full of wildlife, too: otters, beavers and black neck swans inhabit the rivers and lakes, while toninas (commerson's dolphin), seals and penguins swim in the sea. Patagonia has no poisonous insects; in fact, there is hardly even a mosquito.

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: [See above](#)

DAY 7: PUYUHUAPI TO CALETA CHRISTIANE (90 NM / 9 hrs)

Navigate southwest towards the Moraleda Channel and then through a maze of islands and channels towards the eastern side of Isla Traiguen. The route is scattered with several beautiful smaller islands, stunning views of the outrun of the Andes, beautiful volcanoes and many waterfalls.



Navigating the Patagonian Fjords

The voyage through the numerous islands and channels offers stunning views, spectacular waterfalls and the area offers many safe anchorages and areas for kayaking or trekking on islands.



River flowing into Caleta Christina from Lago Tronador

At Caleta Christina a river from nearby Lago Tronador flows into the bay as a waterfall in a beautiful forest setting.

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Kayaking, stand-up paddle, fishing, trekking, flora & fauna, photography, helicopter sight-seeing.

DAY 8: CALETA CHRISTIANE TO SAN RAFAEL ANCHORAGE – (65 NM / 7 hrs)

Cruise south along the eastern side of Isla Traiguen to enter the Estero Elefantes which will lead to one of the highlights of the northern Patagonia – the Glaciar San Rafael. As the yacht leaves the Canal Costa it will pass by Isla Raimapu which is inhabited by a colony of cormorants and sea lions.

The San Rafael glacier holds the record as the northernmost tidewater glacier in the southern hemisphere. It is part of the Campo de Hielo (Patagonian Icecap). This huge icecap is 30 to 80 kilometers / 18 to 50 miles wide, attains elevations between 1,800 and 3,000 meters / 5,900 to 9,850 feet, running along the Chile-Argentina border between latitude 44 S and 51 S – as a comparison the southernmost tidewater glacier in Alaska is at a latitude of 58 N. At 4,058 meters / 13,314 feet Cerro San Valentin towers over Laguna San Rafael.

Estero Elefante ends at Golfo Elefante where there are several options for safe anchoring and kayaking.



San Rafael Glacier

The San Rafael glacier can be accessed from the Laguna San Rafael, a lagoon that can be reached by tender through the Rio Tempanos, as large yachts are not allowed to enter the lagoon due to difficult navigation through the Rio Tempanos. Once inside the lagoon, vessels are recommended to keep a safe distance from the grand, apocalyptic glacier show, as huge towers of ice break off the wall and fall thundering into the waters below, raising often a big wave. On sunny days the view is breathtaking, as the glacier sits in the middle of a green lake surrounded by high mountains.



Kayaking on Rio Tempanos

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Kayaking, stand-up paddle, fishing, trekking, flora & fauna, photography, helicopter sight-seeing.

DAY 9: SAN RAFAEL ANCHORAGE TO PUERTO AGUIRRE (90 NM / 9 hrs)

As the yacht navigates north again on the Estero Elefantes the destination will be Puerto Aguirre, a small fishing village with a shellfish cannery. The area is known for abundant seafood such as “cholgas” (large mussels), sea urchin and also fish, today mainly salmon.

As the yacht navigates north, guests can visit the Marmor Caves on the Lago General Carrera accessing them by helicopter and join the yacht again as it navigates north towards Puerto Aguirre or in Puerto Aguirre.



Catedral de Marmol

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Kayaking, stand-up paddle, fishing, trekking, flora & fauna, photography, ATV excursions, helicopter sight-seeing at Lago General Carrera.

**DAY 10: PUERTO AGUIRRE TO PUERTO CHACABUCO (40 NM / 4 hrs)
TRANSFER TO COYAIQUE AIRPORT**

After a short 4 hour cruise from Puerto Aguirre through the Seno Aysen and majestic views of snowy peaks, which attain elevations between 600 and 1,500 meters / 1,970 to 4,920 feet, the vessel will arrive in Puerto Chacabuco, a small port that is also used by cruise lines due to its proximity of Coyhaique and its Balmaceda commercial airport 75 kilometers / 45 miles away. Visitors can return on their private planes from Coyhaique or through Santiago Airport on commercial flights leaving from Balmaceda airport.



Navigating the fjords towards Puerto Aguirre

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10 DAY NORTHERN PATAGONIA CRUISE ROUTE

