

10 DAY SOUTHERN PATAGONIA CRUISE

Puerto Natales to Puerto Williams

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 Strait, 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.

GETTING THERE

To visit Patagonia on a 10 day cruise, the first decision that has to be made is to visit northern 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, but for visitors that want to see glaciers, whales, penguins and stunning views, we recommend to visit Southern Patagonia first, leaving the rest of Patagonia for a second trip, which can also involve visiting the beautiful lake and volcano district just north of Puerto Montt.

The city of Puerto Natales, which is a city with a population of less 20,000 is a great starting point for the southern Patagonia cruise, as it has an airport where both commercial and private planes can land, and also offers great hotels for visitors to stay before they embark on a yacht if they are interested in visiting some of the interesting sights around Puerto Natales, best known for its proximity to the Torres del Paine National Park.

ABOUT PUERTO NATALES

If guests have a couple of days before their cruise, Puerto Natales is a great starting point to get a preview of the sights they will see before embarking on their 10-day cruise. A rancher feel and an ever growing adventure activity scene are mixed in this city, which is best known as the gateway to the famous Torres del Paine National Park.

While in Puerto Natales visitors can climb the Dorotea Hill to look at Puerto Natales from above. If they are lucky, they be able to see the majestic flight of the condor that nests on the vertical walls of the hill.

Also, visitors can discover the Milodon Cave and get to know the history of this giant sloth that used to live here in this southernmost part of Chile more than 10,000 years ago. A short cruise through the Ultima Esperanza fjord will give visitors a taste for some stunning views of glaciers and numerous streams that tumble over the cliffs into the sound in fine cascades.

Visitors will be pleasantly surprised with the countless activities to do outdoors and they will be amazed by the vibrant colors that paint the sky at sunset, which can also be seen from a kayak or bike.

But not everything is physical effort, so visitors should enjoy the abundant Patagonian food – Patagonian lamb being a specialty in this area - and take the opportunity to rest overnight on land at the multiple accommodations available here, one of them being the Hotel Serrano.

An interesting fact is that the shops in Puerto Natales do not handout plastic bags, so shoppers must have room in their backpack or carry eco-friendly bags.

As mentioned, while in Puerto Natales, there are several places to visit.

BERNARDO O'HIGGINS NATIONAL PARK

A place where wildlife is abundant among native forests that grow in the middle of a network of fjords, that is what the Bernardo O'Higgins National Park, home to the Kawésqar (also known as Alacalufes) people, is like.

In this park, the glaciers from the Southern Ice Fields are the main attractions and they invite to visit the areas on boats and to behold their magnificence. This is an area that keeps the purity of nature in the south intact, giving the visitors an unforgettable experience.



Bernardo O'Higgins National Park

Activities include horseback riding in the park, relaxing by the fire and enjoy the sounds of nature or trekking/camping right by the river, lying under the stars that can be seen in the enormity of the sky.

CUEVA DEL MILODÓN NATURAL MONUMENT

The Cueva del Milodón is a site of great paleontological interest formed by three caves which have their remains almost intact. It is well known for having the "Devil's Chair" at its entrance, a rock which, as legend says, was used by the Mylodon as a throne. Others guarantee that it was Lucifer himself who lived here.



Cuevas del Milodon

Visitors will find a life sized replica of the famous mammal which the place is named after. Visitors can also take the time to have a picnic in the surrounding area, as there are special places to eat in the middle of nature.

DOROTEA HILL

Standing at 800 meters, Dorotea Hill (Cerro Dorotea) invites to an easy group-based trek. Once at the top there is a mesmerizing view of the city of Puerto Natales, the Ultima Esperanza fjord and the Admiral Montt Gulf, which are worth photographing.



Cerro Dorotea, Puerto Natales

On the way back down, walk along the lenga pathways and listen to the beautiful sound of the birds living on the hill. To satisfy their hunger visitors can stop half-way for a typical supper with hot tea or coffee and “sopaipillas” with maqui jam and butter.

NAVIGATING THROUGH THE BALMACEDA AND SERRANO GLACIER

Navigating through these glaciers means admiring the grandeur of these almost virgin lands. In good weather this can be done with a tender boat with the trip beginning on the Puerto Bories jetty where there is abundant colonies of cormorants and sea lions. A can't-miss adventure is the Glaciar Balmaceda. To visit the Glaciar Serrano, on the other hand, visitors will have to take a short walk around the lake formed by its melted ice.



Glaciar Serrano

SOUTHERN PATAGONIAN ICE FIELDS

The Southern Patagonian Ice Fields (Campos de Hielo Sur) are where 49 glaciers originate, including the Pio XI glacier - inside Bernardo O'Higgins National Park - and the Glaciar Tyndall and Glaciar Grey, which visitors can see at the Torres del Paine National Park. Visitors can practice ice walking along the white paths and hiking along its steep walls.



Campos de Hielo Sur

The sun shining on the glaciers and the frozen mountains create an unmatched postcard worthy landscape. The hardy flora of its surroundings, the lenga forests and cold steppes creating blotches of color in the eternally white landscape is a sight to remember.

TORRES DEL PAINE

Have you ever felt completely insignificant in comparison to nature? This is the way many visitors describe how they feel when visiting the turquoise waters, glaciers and towering granite horns of the Torres del Paine National Park. The jaw-dropping landscapes of this eighth wonder of the world are humbling indeed.

If trekking is someone's passion, then heading for the Torres del Paine National Park to experience truly magnificent forests, mountains, waterfalls, lakes and stunning views of the Southern Ice Fields will be one of the most breath-taking and memorable experiences in their life, while at this UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.

During the summer visitors should take full advantage of the 17 hours of daylight and not miss out on sunrise, when the horns of the Torres del Paine massif glow purple and red. Other activities that can be done is sailing on Lago Grey to admire the eponymous glacier, or to paddle a kayak through its colossal blue and white icebergs.

There is also terrific wildlife-watching in Torres del Paine, where majestic condors can be seen wheeling in the pristine skies overhead. While trekking visitors will come across foxes, huemules (Andean deer) and guanacos along the way, and if they lie in wait patiently, they might be lucky enough to spot the reclusive puma.



Torres del Paine

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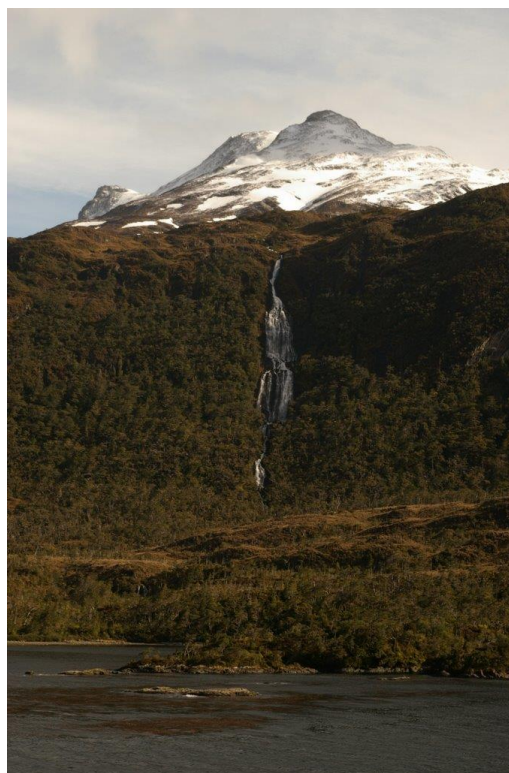


Puerto Natales

DAY 1: PUERTO NATALES TO BAHIA ISTHMUS (77 NM / 8 HRS)

Cruise along the meandering channels through steep sided mountains of the Canal Smyth to Bahia Isthmus, also known as Bahia Mallet. Bahia Isthmus combines the qualities of a safe shelter with the pleasures of a majestic and beautiful setting, rich in animal life with many dolphins and birds. The isthmus, not much wider than one hundred meters was once used by the local Indians to portage their canoes between Canal Smyth and Ensenada Oracion. A German captain elected Bahia Isthmus as base camp during his exploration of the area in the year 1893, when he was in search of a convenient place to build an Estancia. The Canal Smyth is littered with several shipwrecks, which provide an interesting alternative to explore and dive the cold waters of the channel for the more adventurous visitors.

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Cruise along protected waters through various channels and landscapes of steep cliffs and snowcapped hills. Kayaking, stand-up paddling, photography and trekking



Waterfall along Canal Smyth

DAY 2: BAHIA ISTHMUS TO PUERTO PROFUNDO (38 NM / 4 H)

Cruise along the “Alcalufes National Park” on the southern side of Canal Smyth on the way to Puerto Profundo. Its landscape is filled with low mountain-like islands and islets, lots of channels and fjords. Vegetation is made up of coastal grasslands and thickets, formations of Coihue and Sphagnum; while fauna is composed of several birds and mammals. The Alcalufes were a tribe of Indians that inhabited this zone and some are still found in the area today. Puerto Profundo is a wide sheltered basin north of



Alacalufes National Park

Islote Fairway and provides a very good anchorage in case of unfavorable weather conditions.

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Cruise along protected waters and steep cliffs. See Wildlife, waterfalls, kayaking, stand-up paddling, photography, helicopter sight-seeing.

DAY 3: PUERTO PROFUNDO TO ISLA CARLOS III (88 NM / 10.5 hrs)

As the vessel exits Canal Smyth marked by the lighthouse at Islote Fairway it will start heading southeast towards Isla Carlos III along the Western side of the Magellan Strait. The lighthouse on Islote Fairway was built on this small island in 1920 and belongs to a vast network of lighthouses that have aided sailors navigate the Magellan Strait in the 20th century. Many of the historic lighthouses of southern Chile are the work of George Slight (1859-1934), a Scottish engineer who moved to Chile in the 1890's and eventually became the head of the Chilean Maritime Signaling Service. In all, he designed and supervised the construction of more than 70 lighthouses. Carlos III Island provides two safe and sheltered anchorages, Bahia Tilly and Bahia Mussel. Carlos III Island is home to the “Parque Marino Francisco Coloane”, the first and only Chilean sea park created to preserve the Humpback whales. The waters surrounding Carlos III island is one of the most privileged areas of all the austral region to sight and study the species. The park covers 67,000 hectares /165,000 ac, which make up the protected coastal area.

The Park was created because it is part of a very important biological corridor, being the habitat of the famous humpback whale and occasionally sei whales during their feeding season. It's also the natural habitat of different marine mammal species such as minke whales, orcas, sea wolves and sea elephants. The area also includes very important nesting areas which belong to the

Magellanic penguin, and from here it is possible to watch the giant Antarctic petrel and imperial cormorant among others.



Whale watching at Parque Marino Francisco Coloane

The season for observing humpback whales (*megaptera novaeagliae*) begins in December and it is possible to watch them until April of the following year.

Along the shore of Carlos III Island, is located a luxurious campground, which offers services such as lodging, food and excursions around the area. This place is composed of rocky islets and the vegetation of Carlos III is made up of low lying bushes and short forests such as ñirres, lengas and coigües.

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Cruise along protected waters and steep cliffs. See waterfalls, humpback whales, penguins, orcas, sea wolves, sea elephants, petrels and cormorants, among others. Kayaking, stand-up paddle and trekking on Carlos III island, photography, helicopter sight-seeing.

DAY 4: CARLOS III TO SENO ALMIRANTAZGO (120 NM / 12 hrs)

Cruise along Isla Clarence and Isla Dawson among majestic views of several fjords and arrive at Seno Almirantazgo. Seno Almirantazgo offers very protected waters for several activities on the water such as kayaking, exploring the different coves on the tender vessel, or trekking along several rivers that flow into the sound. There are several smaller lakes that can be accessed by

foot or by helicopter for some great fly-fishing. Fishing aficionados are almost guaranteed to catch Patagonian trout in these very isolated lakes.



Seno Almirantazgo

Lago Azopardo is one of many lakes in this area that offers excellent fly-fishing.

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Kayaking, fly-fishing, stand-up paddling, trekking, photography, helicopter sight-seeing.

DAY 5: SENO ALMIRANTAZGO TO SENO CHICO (100 NM / 10 hrs)

As the yacht cruises towards Seno Chico, it will leave the Magellan Strait and enter Canal Magdalena, which leads to Canal Cockburn on the northern side of the Alberto de Agostini National Park.

Occupying an area of 1,460,000 hectares / 3,600,000 acres, the Alberto De Agostini National Park is the third largest protected area in Chile. It lies 80 nautical miles to the Southwest of Punta Arenas, in the lands that used to belong to the Holanda Forest Reserve and the Hernando de Magallanes National Park. The reserve proudly brandishes the name of Alberto de Agostini, who made a great contribution to the region through his maps and photographs.

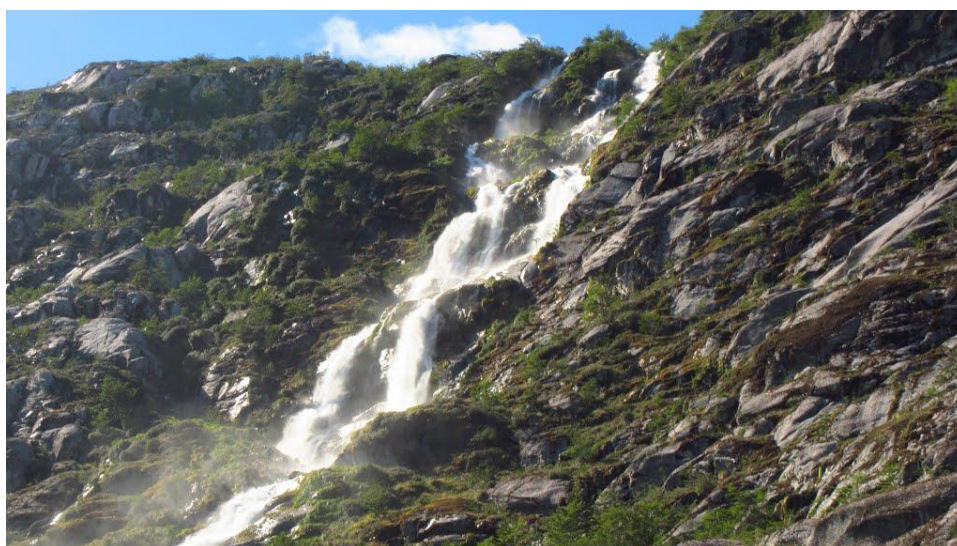
This beautiful protected area with fjords and glaciers includes the Darwin mountain range, as well as the famous Beagle Channel. Sailing along the channel, the incredible glaciers may be seen on the rocky slopes towards the fjords and the inlets. One of the best known is the Glaciar Marinelli,

the largest in the entire area, with colossal walls and ice inlet. Another popular destination is the Glaciar De Agostini, protected by two mountain barriers and whose accessibility enables visitors to land on the ice.

In turn, the tour around the narrow Canal Murray leads to Bahia Wulaia, where a real historical and cultural landmark is located: that is the right spot where biologist Charles Darwin saw the primitive dwellers of Tierra del Fuego for the first time. This encounter had a strong influence on his later theories on human evolution. The largest settlement of yaganes Indians (yámanas o yahganes) in the region was concentrated in this area of wild beauty, favored by the richness of resources provided by the sea environment.

Another attraction in the park is Pampa Guanaco, a venue that is usually visited by guanacos and also offers a good place for fishing lovers.

An interesting wildlife sample may be observed at the park: sea lions, elephant seals and sea otters, called “chungungos” by the locals, are some of the species. Likewise, its plentiful vegetation is made up by a wide diversity of species, amongst which the coigües and cinnamon trees that grow on the steep cliffs stand out.



Seno Chico - Waterfall

Seno Chico is clear of dangers, with depths between 20 and 120 meters / 65 and 390 feet, high and steep cliffs surround this beautiful inlet. The inlet offers two anchorages, one of them being the Alakaluf Fjord, where at the end of this fjord there is a magnificent double-faced glacier.

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: *Kayaking, stand-up paddling, trekking, photography, helicopter sight-seeing.*

DAY 6: SENO CHICO TO CALETA GOMEZ (110 NM – 11 hrs)

Leaving Seno Chico towards the west the yacht will leave the Canal Cockburn and enter the Canal Brecknock which will lead to the Canal Ballenero. Caleta Gomez is located on the eastern side of

Isla O'Brien. Caleta Gomez marks the entrance to "glacier alley" as several larger glaciers are located on the southern side of the Alberto de Agostini National Park.

The park features a highly irregular coastline, which is deeply indented by fjords. The centerpiece of the park is the Cordillera Darwin, whose slopes drop precipitously to the sea. The valleys not filled by the sea are covered by glaciers, which also occupy small high plateaus.

Much of the landscape of the park has been sculpted by glaciers. The glaciers and mountains in this area form an amazing scenery, which also comprises the majestic Mount Darwin. Another glacier-related highlight of the park is the Avenue of the Glaciers, where the word avenue is used in a figurative sense describing part of the north-west arm of the Beagle Channel where it is possible to view several glaciers along the north shore.

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Glaciers, standup paddle, kayak, trekking, photography, helicopter sight-seeing

DAY 7: CALETA GOMEZ TO GARIBALDI GLACIER (25 NM – 3 hrs)

Leaving Caleta Gomez towards the yacht will enter the Paso Darwin, which was named by Captain Fitzroy in 1833 to commemorate Charles Darwin, the young naturalist that rose to fame for his theory about evolution. Darwin sailed on the Beagle during Fitzroy's second voyage in the southern seas, between 1831 and 1836. From here there are also stunning views of both the Cordillera Darwin and Isla Darwin.



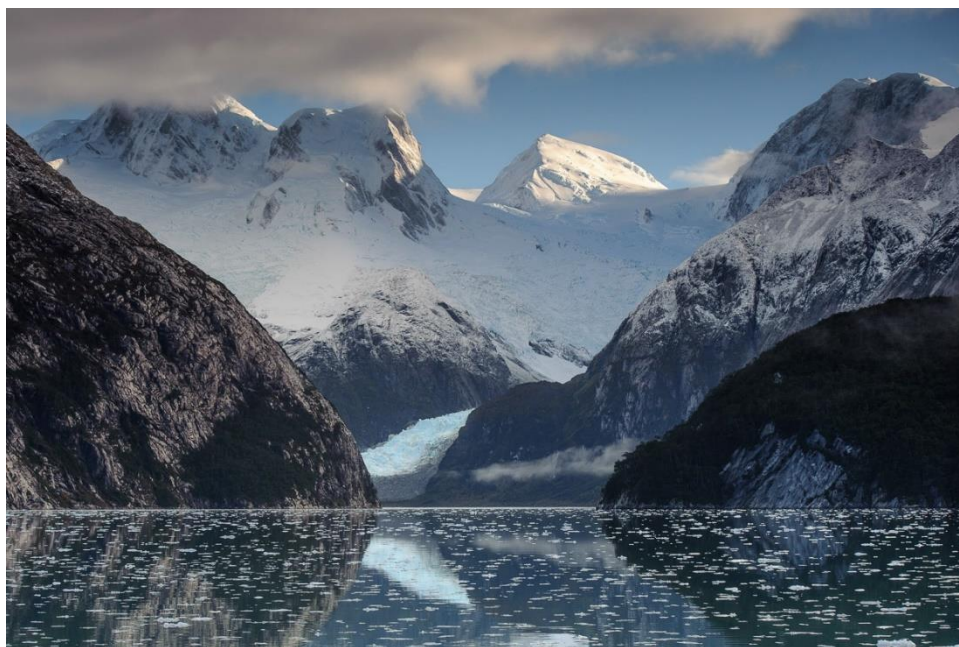
Seno & Glaciar Garibaldi

On the way to Glaciar Garibaldi guests can also visit the Glaciar Ventisquero, however this is one of the glaciers most commonly visited by tourism vessels and commercial cruise ships.

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Glaciers, glaciers and more glaciers: many named after countries: España, Romanche, Alemania (also known as Roncagli), Italia and Francia. Kayak, photography, helicopter sight-seeing.

DAY 8: GLACIER GARIBALDI TO SENO PÍA (20 NM – 2 hrs)

Seno Pia is a long Y-shaped inlet hiding a magnificent tidewater glacier at the head of each arm. The entire inlet is particularly spectacular with high granite walls in all directions and sharp snowy peaks above.



Seno Pia & Cordillera Darwin

As the sound offers several anchorages it is a great sound to explore using the tender vessels of the yacht, as this is one of the greatest places to discover on a boat, lots of glaciers fall into that fjord. The colors and sounds of glaciers are impressive! The western arm of the sound is often labeled as one of the most spectacular spots of all of Tierra del Fuego. On the eastern arm visitors can climb a steep ridge to reach a viewpoint that has an impressive view over the sound and the glacier.

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Glacier viewing, exploration of sound on the tender, trekking, kayaking, stand-up paddle, photography, helicopter sight-seeing.

DAY 9: SENO PIA TO CALETA OLLA (25 NM – 3 hrs)

Caleta Olla is a small anchorage formed by the shaped moraine of some ancient glacier, now receded into the interior. This bay is popular with the local fishermen, who stop in here. Within range of a small boat trip and a short hike is the Glacier Holanda.



Caleta Olla

This is also an area inhabited by some magnificent foxes, an endemic species of the Andean mountains, whose local name is “chulepo”

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Glacier viewing, trekking, fauna, photography, helicopter sight-seeing

DAY 10: CALETA OLLA TO PUERTO WILLIAMS (60 NM – 6 hrs)

On the way from Caleta Olla to Puerto Williams lies the Yendegaia National Park. The park was created on a southern portion of Tierra del Fuego, made up by a donation of 38,000 hectares / 94,000 acres from the former Yendegaia Ranch lands belonging to the Yendegaia Foundation, now transferred to the Chilean government, and the subsequent addition of 112,000 hectares / 276,000 acres of adjacent government land, creating a total protected area of 150,000 hectares 370,000 acres.

This amazing “piece” of wild nature at "the end of the world", which was formerly a cattle ranch, includes beech forests, vast grasslands, jagged coastlines, torrential rivers and sublime mountains making it one of the most spectacular places on the island of Tierra del Fuego.



Yendegaia National Park

The scenic landscapes in Yendegaia National Park are composed of the most superb features: mountains, forests, wetlands, peat bogs, lakes, rivers and glaciers and snowfields that flow into fiords and channels. It also contains a wide diversity of flora and fauna, many in danger of extinction or facing other conservation challenges, such as the culpeo fox, river otters and the ruddy-headed goose. According to surveys, a total of 128 vascular plant species and 49 land and sea bird species, belonging to 29 families, have been registered, making this land a unique place for bird watching. The most important thing about Yendegaia National Park is that it will be a protected area and wildlife corridor that will extend from the Patagonian steppe of Tierra del Fuego National Park (Argentina) to the frozen tundra and evergreen forests of the Alberto De Agostini National Park (Chile). It will protect a crucial area of unique sub-Antarctic forests that have suffered severe degradation from the devastating logging and indiscriminate burning practices carried out to make pasture lands during the early and mid-century. At the same time, it was declared the "Cabo de Hornos Indigenous Development Area", due to the large amount of quality archaeological vestiges from the Yámana society living in Yendegaia Bay, which means deep bay in their native language.

ACTIVITIES/SIGHTS: Trekking, Fly-fishing on Isla Navarino, bird watching, amazing landscapes, flora and fauna, photography, helicopter sight-seeing.

Having arrived in Puerto Williams, the southernmost city in the world, passengers can disembark and they can be flown on a charter plane from Puerto Williams to Punta Arenas or Santiago for their trip back home.

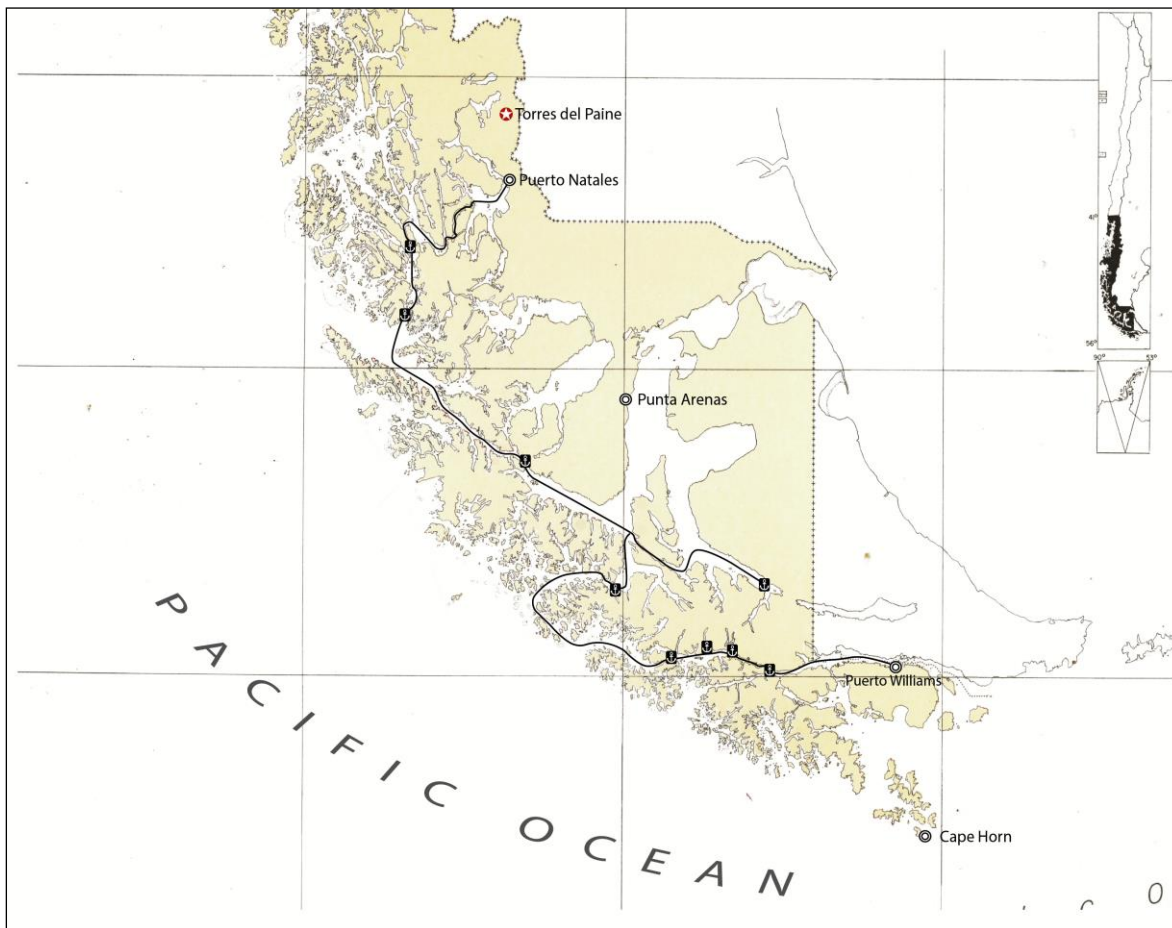


Puerto Williams

From Puerto Williams, which together with Ushuaia (Argentina) is the gateway to Antarctica, yachts can visit Cape Horn, which is 80 miles away from Puerto Williams along the eastern side of Isla Navarino.

Puerto Williams is also the closest continental city to Antarctica, 530 miles away from King George Island. With good weather yachts can navigate from Puerto Williams to King George Island in about 48 hours.

10 DAY SOUTHERN PATAGONIA CRUISE ROUTE



For more information contact:

Carlos Miquel
c.miquel@sasyss.com