

Chilean Fjords Expedition

With Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures

March 28 – April 10, 2020

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Tour Summary

14-Day / 13-Night Chilean Fjords Cruise
Starting at \$7995

Arrival airport is Ushuaia (USH), departure airport is Santiago International (SCL)

Tour Highlights

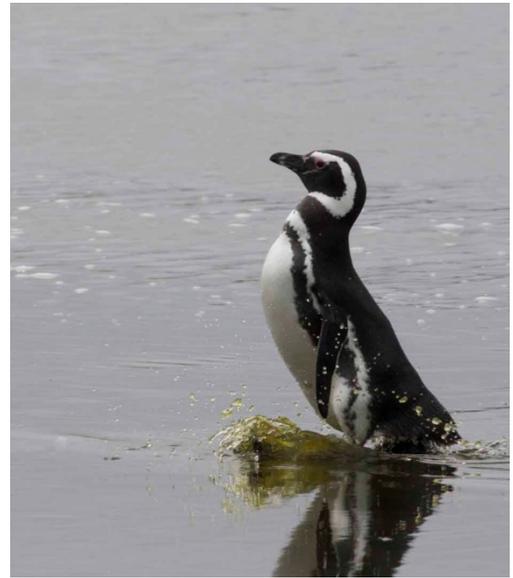
- ✓ Learn about the environment, glacial systems, history and ecology from experts
- ✓ Visit historic sites and local communities, and experience rural Chilean culture
- ✓ Experience some of the most remote and pristine wilderness areas on Earth
- ✓ Observe resident and migrating wildlife on shore, in Zodiacs, and from the ship
- ✓ Witness massive glaciers and perhaps watch as they calve into the water
- ✓ See marine mammals and seabirds from deck (see an entire species list [here](#))



We invite you to join Naturalist Journeys on this exciting Chilean Fjords cruise. The vast Patagonian ice-sheet that straddles the Andes in South America is the third largest ice-mass on the planet, after Antarctica and the Greenland icecap. It's a remnant of the most recent ice age and dominates the landscape, ecology, and geology of Patagonia. Immense glaciers cut through towering mountains as they move towards the sea. Take a look at any map and this action becomes immediately apparent, in the maze of fjords and islands that make up one of the planet's last great remaining wilderness regions. Ancient boreal forests also tell a story of an evolving planet and the supercontinent of Gondwanaland. They are home to several species of flora only found in South America, New Zealand, and Australia's most southerly state, Tasmania.

This Patagonia nature cruise begins in Ushuaia. We cruise north through a vast network of deep fjords and channels, occasionally venturing into the Pacific Ocean as we navigate towards Valparaiso—Chile's historic deep-sea port. We explore our surroundings by Zodiac, approaching huge glaciers and observing resident and migratory wildlife and birdlife. On shore, we enjoy hikes of varying durations to outstanding viewpoints, in the company of expert guides. Additionally, we visit small coastal communities that showcase the unique way of life of the hardy local inhabitants—telling a story of both indigenous and European settlement. It is hard to think of a more remote, pristine location and we discover it all in the comfort of one of the world's most capable expedition ships, the *RCGS Resolute*.

Itinerary



Sat., Mar. 28 Ushuaia, Argentina

Our journey through Chile's spectacular fjord region commences this afternoon in Ushuaia, Argentina. We gather at our central meeting point then transfer to the pier for embarkation. Excitement is in the air as we enjoy a welcome cocktail and dinner before casting off, bound for the stunning landscapes of Patagonia, rugged coastal Chile, and historic city of Valparaiso.

Sun., Mar. 29 Cape Horn | Hornos Island

Our journey is now well under way. Through the night we sailed south through the Wollaston Islands and down to the notorious Cape Horn headland on Horonos Island—one of the most southern points of Chile and the northern boundary of the Drake Passage. Prior to the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914, Cape Horn was part of a key world trade route (the Clipper route) and today rounding Cape Horn is a bucket list item for many recreational sailors. Weather and sea permitting, we go ashore to explore the rugged landscape, lighthouse, and chapel found on Horonos Island.

Mon., Mar. 30 Garibaldi or Pia Fjord & Alberto De Agostini National Park

We have rounded Cape Horn and during the night we sailed in a north westerly direction back into the Beagle Channel, which separates Argentina from neighboring Chile, and into Alberto de Agostini National Park, designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve due to its large tracts of ancient sub-Antarctic forest systems. Naturalists believe these forests started growing around 10,000 years ago. At the break of dawn, we find ourselves at the opening of the Pia and Garibaldi fjords. Our Fjord and glacier of choice depends on current sea and tidal conditions. We plan to head to shore for the first time, with the option of taking a short but steep hike up to find panoramic views of either of the glaciers. We also plan to explore either of the massive glaciers and near-by waterfalls here by Zodiac. Resident wildlife in the Beagle Channel includes the South American Sea Lion and several species of birds, including Magellanic Penguin and albatross.

Tues., Mar. 31

Alberto De Agostini National Park | Dainelli & Serrano Glaciers

Sailing through the night, by morning we have rounded the western tip of the great isle of Tierra del Fuego. We take in views of the ice-capped peaks of the Darwin Range as we enter remote D'Agostini Sound. Here, the



Dainelli and Serrano Glaciers, along with several others, cascade into the sea. Our captain assesses current ice and weather conditions to determine where we can land to explore from shore.

Wed., Apr. 1 Magellan Strait & Cabo San Isidro

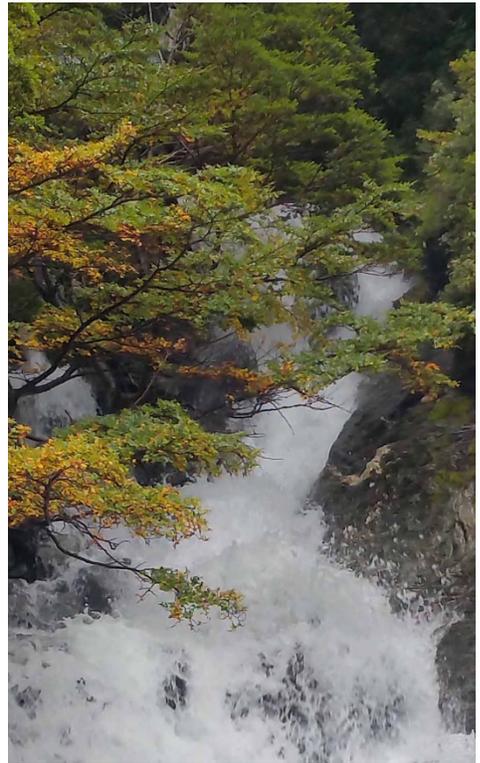
We arrive at Cabo San Isidro, on the north shore of the Magellan Strait, and site of the southernmost lighthouse on the continent. This is our opportunity to enter the normally impenetrable Magellanic southern beech forests. A hiking trail follows the shoreline, passing shell middens left by the indigenous Kawéskar people, leading from Aguila Bay, a site of an important whaling station over a century ago. Wildlife watchers appreciate the variety of forest birds, and the viewpoint above the bay where dolphins are often observed swimming in the kelp beds below.

Thurs., Apr. 2 Alacalufes National Reserve

We cruise through the maze of channels that form Chile's inside Passage, gradually making our way northward. We exit the Strait of Magellan and soon find ourselves in the Smyth Canal along the east coast Manuel Rodrigues Island—named after the guerilla leader and arguably one of the founders of independent Chile—home to a large section of the Alacalufes National Reserve. As we explore this rugged area keep a look out for Chilean Dolphin, whales, and sea lions, as well as White-Crested Elaenia, Southern Churrín, Southern Crested Caracara, and the iconic Magellanic Woodpecker. Conditions permitting we land for a shore excursion before returning to the ship for dinner. Over dinner and through the night we continue to sail through the Smyth Channel towards Peel Fjord.

Fri., Apr. 3 Peel Fjord | Asia & Amalia Glaciers

In a trip full of superlatives and highlights, today may well be near the top. Navigating into Peel Fjord, we make our way towards the impressive glaciers of this region. If you're on the outer decks for a morning coffee or photography session you may hear what sounds to be thunder—a noise stemming from glacier movement and breakage known as calving. After breakfast we make our way onto the water where, from the low vantage point of our Zodiacs or kayaks, the sheer scale of the glacier face is an experience you won't forget. Be on the lookout for wildlife such as South American Sea Lion, Rock Cormorant, and Andean Condor.



Sat., Apr. 4 Brüggen Glacier & Falcon Fjord

Navigating into Eyre Fjord, the vast sweep of the Brüggen Glacier comes into view. Often called the ‘Pio XI’, at almost 60 kilometers in length it is the largest glacier in the Southern Hemisphere outside of Antarctica. It rises almost 70 meters above the surface of the water and is a staggering four kilometers wide. In the afternoon, we put on our expedition gear to explore the seldom visited Falcon Fjord.

Sun., Apr. 5 Wellington Island & Puerto Eden

We awaken off the shores of Wellington Island, outside one of the most remote inhabited places in the world. The tiny indigenous village of Puerto Edén is home to the last remaining Kawéskar people. A visit to shore allows us to explore the village and to potentially purchase local handicrafts including baskets and models of bark canoes reflecting the Kawéskar’s paddling heritage. In the afternoon, we sail north along Messier Channel, now leaving the Patagonian fjords to voyage over the open sea, rounding the Taitao Peninsula by night.

Mon., Apr. 6 Coastal Cruising

Throughout the day our onboard experts educate us with a series of presentations about the environment, wildlife, and history of this stunning region. Take some time to relax in the wellness center, pool, or stroll around the decks. Our open bridge policy means that you can join the ship’s Captain and learn about the operations of our modern expedition vessel.

Tues., Apr. 7 Castro & Chiloé Island

We have moved to milder climates and are now in position close to the town of Castro—the provincial capital of the island of Chiloé. The town was founded in 1567 and is the third oldest city in Chile. Today it is known for its elaborate churches, made entirely of wood, which have earned it a designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We make our way ashore and are immediately struck by the colorful houses built on stilts around the harbor. Known as ‘palafitos’, they are simple homes built by local fisherman. The local markets are a highlight and showcase some of the most impressive crafts and textiles in the country. Reboarding the ship in the



afternoon, we hug the coastline, hoping to see the snow-capped summits of the many active volcanoes that characterize this region.

Wed., Apr. 8 Coastal Cruising & Niebla

Located at the mouth of the Valdivia River, Niebla is an intriguing coastal town with rich history, inhabited for centuries by the indigenous Mapuche tribe. Europeans first discovered it in the mid-15th century. Take in the historical remains of Fuerte de Niebla—part of an important fort system established by the conquering Spanish army to protect the estuary of the Valdivia River—and immerse yourself in the exhibitions at the Casa del Castellano Museum. Unwind before the day is done by taking a stroll along one of the outstanding nearby beaches and enjoy the sand, cliffs, and rock formations that scatter the coastline.

Thurs., Apr. 9 Coastal Cruising Towards Valparaiso

As we make our way towards the historic port of Valparaiso, the educational presentations continue and we enjoy an entertaining voyage recap by our Expedition Leader. Join our photography expert in the multimedia room, where you can download and/or back up your precious images. Or spend time outside on the observation decks, in our spacious lounges or on the bridge. It's a fitting time to reflect on a wonderful expedition. This evening we enjoy a special dinner attended by the Captain of the ship.

Fri., Apr. 10 Valparaiso, Chile

This morning we arrive at Valparaiso, the principal deep water port for Santiago, around 100 kilometres inland from the coast. After breakfast it is time to say farewell to your crew and fellow travelers as we disembark *RCGS Resolute*. A transfer to downtown Santiago, via Santiago Airport, is provided for all guests, however Valparaiso is well worth a day or two of exploration if your schedule allows. Ride the historic funicular railways that still operate around the city and enjoy the bohemian atmosphere. Or spend some time exploring the celebrated Casablanca wine region located nearby.

Ship Details: *RCGS Resolute*

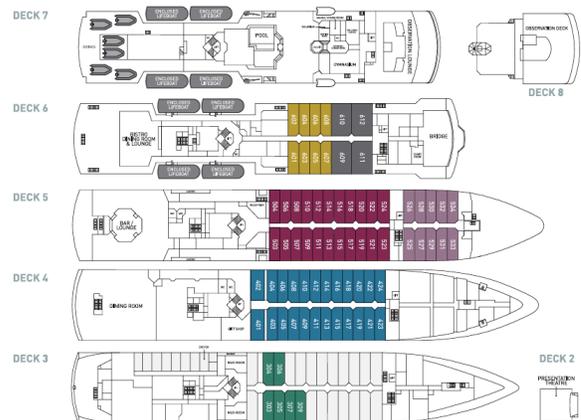


In November 2018, a purpose built polar expedition vessel RCGS Resolute will join *Akademik Ioffe* and *Akademik Sergey Vavilov* under our operator's banner, to offer the most capable, safe, and exclusive expedition cruise fleet in the industry. Designed for comfort, *RCGS Resolute* is modern, well appointed, safe and ice-strengthened. From small group sessions to briefings for all passengers, we have public spaces onboard the ship ideally suited for each and every need. Two separate bar and lounge areas featuring 180 degree views and a wonderfully stocked library provides ideal places to relax or catch up on some reading. The sumptuous meals prepared for you by our culinary team are enjoyed in either of our two dining rooms, one of which features our popular bistro menu offering quick and easy meals for those prioritizing time out on deck. Both dining rooms have ample and open seating paired with modern furnishings and large picture windows with 180-degree views. Other facilities include our theatre style presentation room, gift-shop, gymnasium, wellness center, Jacuzzi, sauna and steam room, and salt water pool.



Cabin Categories

One Ocean Suite | \$11,195 The One Ocean Suites are situated on Deck 6 and offer an indulgent amount of space. Sleeping quarters feature a queen size bed with upgraded linen/pillows. Included is a comfortable sectional lounge with matching club chairs, a large desk, expansive floor to ceiling cabinetry, and spacious washroom facilities with both a shower and bathtub. A flat screen entertainment system is also included. These suites provide easy access to the ship's bridge, the bistro, and outdoor observation spaces. The panoramic observation lounge and recreation facilities are located nearby on Deck 7.



Shackleton Suite | \$8,995 The Shackleton Suites are situated on Deck 6. Suites include the comfort of a sectional lounge, writing desk, substantial floor to ceiling cabinetry, and washroom facilities with shower. A flat screen entertainment system is also included. Sleeping quarters feature the option for either a queen or two single beds with upgraded linen/ pillows. These suites provide easy access to the ship's bridge, the bistro and

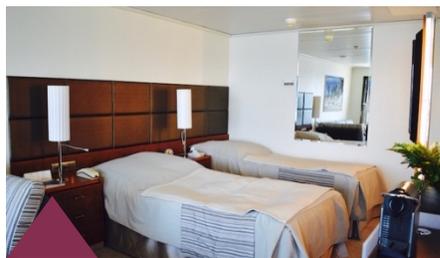
outdoor observation spaces. The forward panoramic observation lounge and recreation facilities are also located nearby on Deck 7.

Superior Plus Cabin | \$8,695 Superior Plus cabins are located midships on Deck 5. They are spacious and well-appointed with the option for either a queen or two single beds. A comfortable lounge is placed by the large picture window, writing desk and chair, ample floor to ceiling cabinet storage, and private washroom facilities with shower. A flat screen entertainment system is also included. Centrally located on the ship, these cabins provide easy access to the aft observation lounge featuring 180 degree views and the ship's dining areas.

Superior Cabin | \$8,295 Located forward on Deck 5 the Superior cabins have the option for either a queen or two single beds. Features include a comfortable lounge adjacent to the large picture window, writing desk and chair, ample storage, and private washroom facilities with shower. A flat screen entertainment system is also included. These cabins provide easy access to the forward stairs leading up to the bridge on Deck 6 and the forward observation lounge located on Deck 7.

Twin Private Cabin | \$7,995 Spacious and well-appointed, these cabins are situated on Deck 4 and have the option for either a queen or two single configured beds. Features include a comfortable lounge adjacent to the large picture window, writing desk and chair, ample storage, and private washroom facilities with shower. A flat screen entertainment system is also included. These cabins provide easy access to the main dining room on the ship, as well as the gift shop.

Main Triple Deck | \$6,495 These cabins are a popular choice for solo travelers willing to share, a family, or a group of friends travelling together. Located on Deck 3, cabins feature three single beds, one of which can convert to a sofa and lounge during the day. These cabins feature a writing desk and chair, ample storage, and private washroom facilities. A flat screen entertainment system is also included. These cabins provide easy access to the expedition room and gangway.



Cost of the Journey

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The cost of the cruise is \$6495 - \$11,195 based on cabin type. There is an option to add on a guided kayaking program with instruction, an additional \$495 per person.

Travel Information

Please arrive in Ushuaia no later than March 27; the airport is Ushuaia (USH). Please plan departures in the afternoon of April 10 out of Santiago International (SCL). We have a hotel booked for you in Ushuaia if you wish to use it, for March 27; cost is TBD.

Photo Credits

Guanacos, Daisy Gilardini Photography (DG), courtesy One Ocean Expeditions (OOE); Patagonia Sunset, Greg Smith (GS); White-throated Caracara, GS; Black-faced Ibis, GS; Black-browed Albatross, GS; Magellanic Penguins, GS; Humpback Tail, GS; Austral Parakeets, GS; Upland Goose, GS; Andean Condor, GS; Flying Steamer Duck, GS; Scenic, Greg Smith; Fjord, GS; Glacier, GS; Garibaldi Fjord Falls, GS; Ship Photos, OOE.