

Lake District & Patagonia

Chile Cultural Walking Adventure



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“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

Life in the Shadow of the Andes

Chile is a gorgeous spectacle. Spaghetti-thin, up to half of this country's slim width is covered by the stratospheric Andes. Glaciers calve. Penguins mix with flamingos. Vineyards knit mild valleys into a neat green patchwork. Sharp spikes of snow-capped rock bite into the sky. At least that's what your photos will say. It's harder to capture how it feels to be wrapped in raw wilderness or to scan the expansive pampas from the porch of a secluded estancia. Many travelers plan tours in Chile just to experience the awesome variety of nature. But we also bring you into the fascinating array of local cultures strung the length of the country. We meet the urbanites of Santiago, experts in the Maipo Valley vineyards, the hardy islanders of Chiloé and, of course, the gauchos who ride the pampas. North to south, mountaintop to seashore, you'll get a carefully curated up-close look at this vast and varied country.

DAY 1

SANTIAGO / MAIPO

- **Discovering the landmarks of Santiago**
- **Lunching at a Maipo Valley vineyard**

We meet in Santiago and what a city it is. Never have skyscrapers had to fight so hard to look tall. After all, snow-capped Andes ring the city and dwarf the manmade peaks. We'll take a guided walk in the historic center where grand Spanish Colonial architecture is the rule. Then we're off to the nearby Maipo Valley, one of the richest growing areas in Chile's expansive wine region. A fine lunch awaits us at the Santa Rita Estate, a property that's a national monument with more than 200 years of history. Of course, there will be pairings and tastings, sure to include Cabernet Sauvignon and some of other signature varietals.

Afterward, we'll take a leisurely walk in the French-style vineyards, and our hosts will show off their whole operation from the vines to bottling. (One of our most vivid images of Chile is how the meticulous geometry of the vineyards contrasts with the jagged, mountainous backdrop.) Back in Santiago, a quick stroll from our hotel will offer a glimpse of the city's lively nightlife and a welcome dinner to follow.

Overnight: Santiago

Meals: L, D

DAY 2

LAKE DISTRICT

- **Marveling at dramatic Petrohué Falls**
- **Exploring the lava fields of Osorno Volcano**

A morning flight takes us south to Puerto Montt, the gateway to Vicente Perez Rosales National Park. Just like always in Chile, the mountains loom, only here the environment is a temperate rain forest...and the terrain is an incredible mix of natural landmarks. We'll drive through vast fields of black volcanic ash spewed by Osorno Volcano. At Petrohué Falls, whitewater plunges through narrow channels in the basalt dam that an eruption threw across the river. Our morning walk is across the black lava sands that cover the ground near Todos los Santos Lake. The photo ops here are fantastic.

This afternoon, we approach the Osorno Volcano itself. Its steep-sided cone is about as perfectly symmetrical as they come. (The most recent eruption was in 1869.) The upper slopes are covered in glaciers. On a walk on the lower slopes, we get a close-up look at the lava formations, plants and animals that have slowly retaken the area over the last century and a half. Not to be missed: the reflection of Osorno in the smooth sapphire surface of Llanquihue Lake. The whole day is a fascinating look at the many ways volcanic activity shapes the environment.

Overnight: Puerto Varas

Meals: B, L

DAY 3

CHILOÉ ISLAND

- **Seeing Humboldt and Magellanic penguins**
- **Meeting the natives of Chiloé Island**
- **Digging into a traditional pit-cooked feast**

Chiloé is a world unto itself. South America's second largest island, it's geographically close to the mainland, but home to a very different culture. We get there via a ferry ride across Chacao Channel, home to sea lions and a tremendous number of sea birds.

On a beach walk, we see the Islotes de Puñihuil. These three rocky knobs jut out of the sea near to shore, and they are the only known shared breeding site for Humboldt and Magellanic penguins. We see the endangered birds up close on a boat ride that circles the islets.

Midday, we join our friends Maria Luisa and Hardy for a curanto – a local social event built around a feast of shellfish, meat and potatoes that is cooked in a covered pit. If it feels something like a luau, that's because this food tradition is believed to have migrated across the Pacific from Polynesia by way of Easter Island. We get a unique look at how the meal is assembled from mussels, smoked pork and some of the 150 kinds of potatoes that are native to the island. We love it because the whole afternoon is a great time with this typical Chilota family. And the eating is very fine, too!

Afterward, we ferry back to the mainland. Dinner is on your own tonight – and you may be ready for a lighter meal after the earlier feast!

Overnight: Puerto Varas

Meals: B, L

DAY 4

LAKES DISTRICT / PATAGONIA

- Fly from Lakes District to Patagonia
- Settle into your dramatically located eco-lodge

Today we're off to the airport and a flight to Punta Arenas, the gateway to Patagonia. Our final destination of the day is Puerto Natales, founded as a port for the sheep industry in a region called Ultima Esperanza (Last Hope). Our luxury eco-resort is nearby.

Upon arrival, you'll make the drive to Puerto Natales and enjoy dinner at our hotel. Sample the country's famous beef or lamb and vegetables grown on the property.

Overnight: Puerto Natales

Meals: B, D

DAY 5

TORRES DEL PAINE

- Walking scenic footpaths with views of forest, waterfalls, and glaciers
- Watching for wild guanaco, rheas and condors
- A mountaintop picnic

This is the morning for a hearty breakfast because the day to come is all about exploring the wilds of Patagonia. We're headed to Torres del Paine. The torres – soaring, spikey "towers" of granite carved by ancient glaciers – are one of the signature sights of Chile. We're headed to part of the park that was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. We love walking on the Sierra del Toro trail because it puts us in the midst of everything the park has to offer. We see pampas, Magellanic forests, waterfalls and glaciers, and a view of the snowcapped Campo de Hielo Sur (the Southern Ice Field).

This is the natural habitat of the guanaco, long-legged rheas, endangered Andean deer, and the Andean condor. And we're likely to spot them during our walk. There are lagoons, too, that are breeding and feeding grounds for a variety of birds. At the top of the trail, the views of the snow-capped mountains are stupendous, and we take our time to absorb it all as we linger over a picnic lunch. Back at the hotel, you'll have free time in this evening to wander the grounds, schedule a spa treatment, or soak in the heated infinity pool.

Overnight: Puerto Natales

Meals: B, L

DAY 6

PATAGONIA

- Watching gauchos in action on a remote ranch
- Savoring the incredible aromas and flavors of a traditional outdoor lamb barbecue

Our day in the mountains yesterday could leave you with the feeling that it would be nearly impossible to live in this region of Patagonia. In fact, there's a hardy population who live and work here, and we'll meet them today. We're off to a working estancia, a vast ranch where the sheep, cattle and horses drastically outnumber the gauchos who tend them.

We'll get a firsthand look at life on the pampas. If you like, you can climb into the saddle for a guided look at the land on horseback, or you can explore the property on a guided walk. Either way, you'll see how the gauchos go about their work with demonstrations of sheep shearing and the way they team up with shepherd dogs to control their flocks in the wild terrain. We especially love this time at the estancia because it is an unforgettable glimpse into how man and nature coexist in ways that are unimaginable back home.

The day is capped with a gaucho barbecue, and the centerpiece is succulent lamb grilled over open fires. It's a traditional feast that perfectly captures the rustic, natural spirit of the day.

Overnight: Puerto Natales

Meals: B, L

DAY 7

SALTO GRANDE / GREY GLACIER

- **Marveling at ice floes piercing the water of a brilliant blue lake**
- **Boating up to the face of towering Grey Glacier**

This morning, we're headed for a completely different view of Torres del Paine. At the entry to the park, Laguna Amarga, whose waters are intensely turquoise, signals the theme of the day: water, both liquid and frozen.

We start with a stroll to Salto Grande waterfall. Nearby, recently calved ice floes float in the lake fed by Grey Glacier. With an experienced captain at the helm, we take to the water for an unforgettable boat ride that puts us just a short distance from the sheer face of the glacier. We've all heard how glaciers carve landscape, move mountains and scour out fjords, but it's only from this perspective that you can truly appreciate their awesome scale and power. Lounge on the deck—maybe with a pisco sour chilled by glacial ice—and take it all in.

This evening, we celebrate over a farewell dinner of sophisticated local fare served in the hotel's restaurant overlooking the Patagonian landscape.

Overnight: Puerto Natales

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8

PUNTA ARENAS - SANTIAGO

- **Transfer to Punta Arenas**
- **Fly back to Santiago in time for evening connections home**

This morning, we drive to Punta Arenas. An afternoon flight gets us to Santiago early evening to make late-evening connections for return flights home.

Overnight: None

Meals: B



Tour Hotels



Singular Santiago

In an elegant city neighborhood, but bounded by a lush forested park, this recently opened hotel has rooms decorated with a sophisticated blend of classic and contemporary style. Check out the spa and rooftop pool.

OVERNIGHT: Santiago | **NIGHTS:** 1



Hotel Cumbres Puerto Varas

Designed in the style of a Patagonian lodge, this 5-star property sits on the rim of the bay and offers dramatic views of Lago Llanquihue and the Osorno volcano. Casually elegant rooms are well decorated with native woods.

OVERNIGHT: Puerto Varas | **NIGHTS:** 2



Remota Patagonia

Remota Hotel is a remarkable blend of luxury and sensitive, sustainable architecture. Its low profile hugs the grassy hills outside Puerto Natales. There's a heated infinity pool, outdoor Jacuzzi and spa for your comfort.

OVERNIGHT: Puerto Natales | **NIGHTS:** 4

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	8 Days, 7 Nights
START	Lobby of Singular Hotel, Santiago, Chile
END	Santiago Airport (SCL), Santiago, Chile
TERRAIN	Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. At your option, up to 2 to 4 hours of walking per day, with a mini-van in support.

What's Included

- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience
- All breakfasts, 6 lunches and 3 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Privileged Access Events
- Wine on Us

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST
moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

Franklin
President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Chile...

- Exploring Torres del Paine National Park in Patagonia over four memorable days
- Enjoying a curanto lunch at a family home on Chiloe island
- Taking in the view of snow-capped Osorno volcano on an afternoon walk
- Relaxing at your luxury hotel in Patagonia that combines modern design, warm Chilean hospitality and views of the Last Hope Sound
- Traveling with expert local guides, like Andres, born and raised in Patagonia

"The highlight for me was climbing up the volcano. I loved the exercise and the views just put it over the top, literally."

-Betsy A., Toronto, CA.