

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



Chile

Lake District & Patagonia



“

*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 seem to bite into the sky. It's hard to capture how it feels to be wrapped in raw wilderness or to scan the expansive pampas from the porch of a secluded estancia. On tour, you'll experience the awesome variety of nature as well as meeting the fascinating array of local cultures along the way. On a series of fascinating walks, meet the urbanites of Santiago, vintners in the fertile Maipo Valley, 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 Valley

- Discover the landmarks of Santiago
- Stroll along the vineyards in the Maipo Valley and enjoy a wine tasting

Begin 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. Take a guided walk in the historic center where grand Spanish Colonial architecture is the rule. Then you're off to the nearby vineyard-laced Maipo Valley and accept an invitation to a renowned local winery. Arrive on foot as you stroll through the picture-perfect vineyard to a fine lunch that awaits you at the estate. With more than 30 years of history, you'll take an insightful tour of the winery, learning first-hand about the wine-making process. Pause to sip some locally produced varietals, including the exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon.

Afterward, get an up-close view of the property, as your hosts 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.) During your pairings and tastings, you'll hear tales of this industrious and proud wine region while taking in the beautiful views around you. Raise your glass for a toast and say "salud", which is cheers in Spanish.

MEALS: L, D OVERNIGHT: SANTIAGO

DAY 2 »

Lake District

- Marvel at dramatic Petrohué Falls
- Explore the lava fields of Osorno Volcano

A morning flight takes you 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 rainforest...and the terrain is an incredible mix of natural landmarks. You'll drive through vast fields of black volcanic rock spewed by Osorno Volcano. At Petrohué Falls, marvel as the whitewater plunges through narrow channels in the basalt dam that an eruption threw across the river. Your morning walk is across the black lava sands that cover the ground near Todos los Santos Lake. The photo opportunities here are fantastic as you soak in the views.

This afternoon, you'll approach the Osorno Volcano on foot at eye level. 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 an exploratory walk on the lower slopes, you'll 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.

MEALS: B,L OVERNIGHT: PUERTO VARAS

DAY 3 »

Chiloé Island

- Spot Humboldt and Magellanic penguins
- Meet the natives of Chiloé Island

Chiloé feels like a world unto itself. South America's second-largest island sits close to the mainland, yet you notice immediately that the pace, architecture, and traditions are distinctly Chilote. With your local guide as your well-connected friend, you cross the Chacao Channel by ferry, watching for sea lions and seabirds as the island comes into view. Later, on a coastal walk along a wild Pacific beach, you follow a shore-side path with uninterrupted views out to the Islotes de Puñihuil—three dramatic rocky islets just offshore that shelter colonies of penguins and seabirds. From the sand, you can see the waves breaking around the islets and feel how close everyday island life is to the sea.

Midday, you settle in for a warm, "Only with Classic Journeys" lunch with our friend Jovita at her tiny seaside restaurant. She invites you into her kitchen, and as she cooks, she invites you into the story of her community—families of artisanal fishermen and cooks who've joined together in a cooperative so they can keep working the waters they love and share their tables with a few curious travelers. Over just-caught seafood, local potatoes, and recipes passed down through generations, you taste how closely life here is tied to the tides and seasons. In this small group setting, there is time to talk, ask questions, and see how thoughtful tourism helps sustain traditional ways of life and inspire the next generation to protect Chiloé's wild shores.

In the afternoon, a small boat carries you from the nearby shore out around the Islotes de Puñihuil for a closer look at the wildlife you've been admiring from the beach. From the water, you watch Humboldt and Magellanic penguins waddling, diving, and calling on their nesting ledges, with cormorants and other seabirds wheeling overhead. This unhurried circuit of the islets gives you a rare, up-close view of an endangered ecosystem, the kind of intimate encounter that's carefully arranged so you can witness it while leaving a light footprint.

MEALS: B, L OVERNIGHT: PUERTO VARAS

DAY 4 »

Patagonia

- [Make your way to Puerto Natales](#)
- [Settle into your luxurious eco-lodge](#)

Today you'll venture to Puerto Natales, flying into the gateway to Patagonia. Situated dramatically on Señoret Channel, the town was founded as a port for the sheep industry in a region called Ultima Esperanza (Last Hope). This is the ideal place to base explorations that include the famed Torres del Paine National Park, the World's 8th Natural Wonder.

Later, you'll relax over a dinner of the country's famous beef or lamb and vegetable specialties.

MEALS: B, D OVERNIGHT: PUERTO NATALES

DAY 5 »

Grey Glacier

- [Marvel at the stunning nature of Torres del Paine](#)
- [Boat up to the face of towering Grey Glacier](#)

This is the morning for a hearty breakfast because the day to come is all about exploring the wilds of Patagonia. You're headed to Torres del Paine. At the entry to the park, the Serrano River, whose waters are intensely turquoise, signals the theme of the day: water, both liquid and frozen. Start with a cinematic walk into Lengas Forest, which is filled with ancient beech trees that tower above you and filter the sunlight down around you. The forest floor is covered with a lush carpet of mosses, ferns, and lichens, adding a velvety green layer to the scenery. As you follow this forested footpath, you'll learn about the dramatic landscape while getting the opportunity to spot local wildlife. Keep your eyes open (and your camera ready) to spot the Andean condor soaring overhead. Listen for the resonant calls of the Magellanic woodpecker echoing through the forest. This remarkable bird is among the largest woodpeckers in the world and can be heard drumming on the trees.

As you approach the shores of Lago Grey, the forest begins to give way to breathtaking views of the shimmering glacial lake and the immense Grey Glacier in the distance. The glacier, with its azure hues and massive ice formations, is a sight to behold. Nearby, recently calved ice floes float in the lake fed by Grey Glacier, and with an experienced captain at the helm, take to the water for an unforgettable boat ride that puts you just a short distance from the sheer face of the glacier. You've heard how glaciers carve landscapes, 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. After your memorable cruise, disembark for a walk along the pristine shoreline. Along the way, reflect on the diverse ecosystems you have seen today, from forest to glacier to beach, allowing you to appreciate the natural wonders of Patagonia.

MEALS: B,L OVERNIGHT: PUERTO NATALES

DAY 6 »

Torres del Paine

- [Walk a scenic footpaths with views of forest, waterfalls, and glaciers](#)
- [Watch for wild guanaco, rheas and condors](#)

This morning, get ready for a completely different view of Torres del Paine. You'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. You're headed to a part of the park that was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. You'll love walking on the Sierra Cañadon Macho trail because it puts you in the midst of everything the park has to offer. You'll get the opportunity to see pampas, (grasslands), Magellanic forests, waterfalls such as Paine Cascade and the famous Salto Grande, glaciers, and a view of the snowcapped Campo de Hielo Sur (the Southern Ice Field). At the top of the trail, the views of the snow-capped mountains are stupendous, and you can take your time to absorb it all as you linger over a picnic lunch that is the perfect break in the walks and explorations today.

As you make your way back down the footpath, keep an eye out for local wildlife. This is the natural habitat of the guanaco, long-legged rheas, endangered Andean deer, and the Andean condor, and you're likely to spot them during your walk. Small Andean Foxes are sometimes seen in the park scampering along the trails as well. The nearby lagoons are breeding and feeding grounds for a variety of birds, and as you follow the lead of your expert local guide, they will point out the beautiful flora and fauna. Pause together at vantage points and overlooks for the best views and to discuss the geological features you see along the way.

MEALS: B,L OVERNIGHT: PUERTO NATALES

DAY 7 »

Patagonia Gaucho Experience

- [Watch gauchos in action on a remote ranch](#)
- [Savor the incredible flavors of a traditional outdoor lamb barbecue](#)

Your days in the mountains 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 you'll meet them today. You're off to a working estancia, a vast ranch where the sheep, cattle and horses drastically outnumber the gauchos who tend them. You'll get an 'only with Classic Journeys' firsthand look at life on the pampas. If you like, you can climb into the saddle to join the gauchos for a look at the land on horseback, or you can join your guide to explore the property on foot and at eye level.

Either way, you'll see how the gauchos go about their work as you watch them shear sheep and the way they team up with shepherd dogs to control their flocks in the wild terrain. You'll 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. Midday, enjoy a gaucho barbecue with the centerpiece of a succulent lamb that is grilled over open fires. It's a traditional feast that perfectly captures the rustic, natural spirit of the day.

MEALS: B,L,D OVERNIGHT: PUERTO NATALES

DAY 8 »

Patagonia - Santiago

- [Fly back to Santiago and part company](#)

Following breakfast this morning, you'll fly to Santiago to part company at the airport for your connecting flight home.

MEALS: B OVERNIGHT: NONE



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.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



Wyndham Puerto Varas Petra

This serene lakeside retreat offers panoramic views of the snow-capped Osorno and Calbuco volcanoes. Enjoy its charming alpine-style architecture and upscale dining, then relax in the spa featuring a heated indoor pool, sauna, and hot tub.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



Singular Patagonia

The Singular Hotel Patagonia is the transition between our small existence and the majestic, eternal surroundings. The Singular Patagonia is a unique historic destination, set in a privilege setting which position it as one of the best in the south.

NIGHTS: 4 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of Singular Santiago
CITY: Santiago, Chile
TIME: 10:00 AM

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Santiago Airport (SCL)
CITY: Santiago, Chile
TIME: 6:30 PM
Tour ends on arrival of flight from Patagonia.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ **CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES**
 - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ **EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES**
 - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ **ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS**
 - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ **EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS**
 - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ **SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED**
 - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ **REGENERATIVE TRAVEL**
 - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

What's Included

- Accommodations for 7 nights
- 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**
When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately.
- ▶ **PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS**
One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.