

CROSSING THE ANDES

AN EXPLORATION OF CHILE & ARGENTINA

JANUARY 16 TO 28, 2012

\$3,995 LAND COST + \$1,800 ESTIM. INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL AIRFARE*



PRESENTED BY THE



Minnesota Landscape
ARBORETUM

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in conjunction with Knowmad Adventures is proud to announce an incredible group trip "Crossing the Andes: An Exploration of Chile and Argentina". This 13-day trip from January 16th to the 28th, 2012 will highlight the incredible landscapes of Chile and Argentina as well as the varied cultures throughout these regions while going from Santiago, Chile south to the Patagonia and across the Andes by way of fjords and glacial lakes into Argentina.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRIP

- See Santiago's sights, Chile's dynamic capital city
- Enjoy vineyard visits and tastings in Casablanca Valley
- Meander coastal Valparaiso's cobblestone streets and World Heritage architecture
- Share a traditional meal on mystical Chiloe Island
- Explore the Chilean-German countryside and visit a working ranch
- Traverse the Andes by boat through the volcanoes, turquoise lakes, temperate rainforest and mountain peaks of the Patagonia
- Eat, shop, and hike in Bariloche, Argentina, 'Switzerland of South America'
- Do it in style! This luxurious adventure highlights carefully selected accommodations in a variety of settings including modern, boutique, charming, historic and lakeside
- Trip escorted by the Arboretum's Peter Olin
- \$200 tax-deductible to the Arboretum included



- DAY 1- 3** Arrival, Santiago and Central Chile
- DAY 4- 6** Chiloé Archipelago
- DAY 7** Puerto Varas and Chilean Lakes District
- DAY 8-9** Crossing the Andes
- DAY 10-11** Bariloche, Argentina
- DAY 12-13** Osorno, Chile & Onward Flight Home

ITINERARY: CROSSING THE ANDES – AN EXPLORATION OF CHILE AND ARGENTINA

JAN 16 Depart Minneapolis, Minnesota - Recommended flights: Delta #785 departing at 1:45 pm from Minneapolis to Atlanta & Delta #147 from Atlanta to Santiago, Chile arriving at 8:20 am (on Jan 17)

JAN 17 Arrive Santiago

You will be met at the airport upon arrival and transferred to your accommodations situated conveniently in a central and lovely neighborhood of Chile's capital city Santiago.

After checking and settling in, our group will embark upon a half-day guided sightseeing exploration of this vibrant South American city. We will visit the most important historical sites of Santiago including the downtown area surrounding the Plaza de Armas and the Presidential Palace. We will also pass by the Mercado Central, one of Chile's largest fresh seafood markets and take a stroll by the many bustling stalls to see the tremendous variety available from Chile's bountiful sea. Here we'll start to delve into Chilean cuisine dining on the freshest, native dishes in a small restaurant adjoined to the market. We will visit some of the lesser known *barrios* (neighborhoods) of Santiago including, Republica and Concha y Toro. Initially constituting the outskirts of the city, the capital's constant growth transformed these areas into privileged neighborhoods and home to Santiago's high societies. There will be time to walk around and take photos of the many styles of architecture dating back to the 19th and early 20th century. Continuing through the cobble stoned Lastarria neighborhood, we will walk through the Parque Forestal passing by the Bellas Artes Museum. For a scenic vista of the city, we will visit the top of Cerro San Cristobal Hill, 600 feet above the city.

During the tour you will have the option to visit one Santiago's many famed museums such as: The Cousiño Mansion, the former home to one of Chile's wealthiest 19th century families; or, the La Chascona Museum, the former home of Pablo Neruda, Chile's most famous poet and Nobel laureate; or, the Pre-Columbian Art Museum, containing one of the richest collection of Pre-Columbian culture of Latin America.

Following our excursion we'll return to the hotel together and you will be at your leisure in the evening.

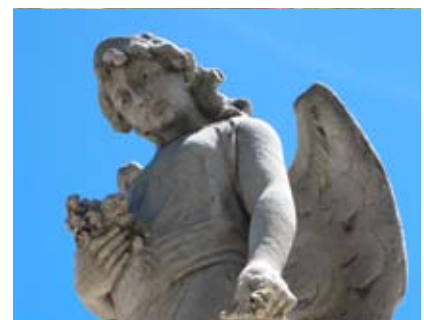
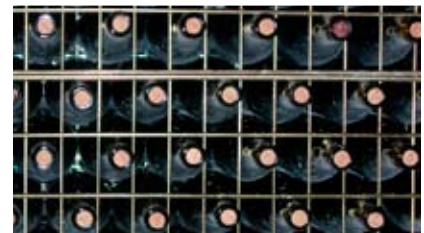
(D - Hotel Rugendas - <http://www.rugendas.cl/>)

JAN 18 Casablanca Valley and Valparaiso

Following breakfast we'll drive west from Santiago for approximately one hour in the direction of the coast and pass through the lush agricultural valley of Curacavi and the now famous Casablanca Wine Valley. Here we will make a stop at the internationally acclaimed Veramonte winery where we will enjoy a delicious tasting of two premium wines. Our next winery visit is to Viñedos Orgánicos Emiliana, where you will learn about organic and biodynamic winemaking in Chile and taste some of the outstanding wines produced by head enologist Alvaro Espinoza--arguably Chile's most famous winemaker.

We continue our tour toward the coast and arrive in the harbor city of Valparaiso; one of the first Chilean cities founded by the Spanish, it is now a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its architecture. Beginning in the downtown sector of the port, we'll learn about the history of Valparaiso and its importance to South American trade and commerce.

Our lunch in Valparaiso will be at La Colombina which is known for its fish and seafood dishes. The restaurant has three spacious dining rooms finely decorated with antique furniture and an extraordinary view of the bay of Valparaiso. Spread along spectacular steep hills and splendid aging buildings, we will ride the century old hillside *ascensores* (hillside elevators) and walk through the lyrical Concepcion and Alegre neighborhoods experiencing magnificent views of the harbor.



Following our day discovering this great South American city we will return for a relaxing evening and dinner at your leisure in Santiago.

(B, L & wine tasting - Hotel Rugendas)

JAN 19 Chiloe Island

This morning we will depart from the Santiago airport flying south for about an hour to Chile's Lakes District and the Northern Patagonia. Our first destination is the enchanting, mystical island of Chiloe. After a 45 minute ferry ride onto the island, we will drive through the countryside where traditions from centuries past are still followed. Our first stop on the island will be the northwestern shores, the breeding grounds of Magellanic and Humboldt penguins and a home to many other species of aquatic birds and sea fauna. We will take small boats along the shore to observe this wildlife.

Following the boat ride we'll enjoy a fresh-catch lunch overlooking the beach with both local and international delights. In the afternoon we'll have a guided exploration of the town of Ancud and visit the Spanish fort of San Antonio.

(B, L - Palafito 1326 - <http://www.palafito1326.cl/>)

JAN 20 Chiloe Island

The Jesuit churches of Chiloe - built long ago using ancient boat building methods from the islands - have achieved worldwide acclaim and World Heritage status. Today we'll visit these fascinating testaments to craftsmanship (many still stand today with not one metal nail used in their construction) and learn of a fascinating blend of local animist beliefs and the Jesuit faith. We'll also tour the local market and *palafito* (stilt house) districts around Castro, gaining a deeper understanding of local life and culture.

(B, L - Palafito 1326)

JAN 21 Chiloe Island – Puerto Varas

After an early breakfast we'll depart for the sunken forest of Chepu, an area where many of the island's myths were born. Departing by boat we'll head down river reaching the Pacific Ocean where we'll take a light hike through the unspoiled coastline and evergreen forests. A local family will host us for lunch today. Alongside Maria Luisa, a community leader in the Chepu area, we will help prepare a Curanto, the delicious shellfish dish that most characterizes the island's cuisine. She and some other members of the community will share with us ancient traditions of this unique island culture. Following the experience we'll return to the mainland and head to the beautiful lakeside town of Puerto Varas.

(B, L - Hotel Puelche - www.hotelpuelche.com)

JAN 22 Puerto Varas and Lago Llanquihue

This morning we'll depart along the volcano-rimmed shores of Lago Llanquihue and appreciate the cities, towns and countryside along Lago Llanquihue. Our first stop is the heavily German-influenced, idyllic Frutillar where we'll visit the German Colonial Museum. We'll continue on to charming Puerto Octay and visit a characteristic ranch for a lunch made from local products. We'll also visit a typical tea house set amongst endless acres of lavender flowers for tea and kuchen.

(B, L, & once - Hotel Puelche)



JAN 23 Crossing the Andes

Today we embark on a great adventure crossing the incomparable Andes Mountain Range from Chile to Argentina. After departing Puerto Varas we will enter the temperate rainforest. A short walk takes us to the spectacular Saltos del Petrohue. With clear skies you will also see the iconic Osorno Volcano as well as the volcanically-formed, turquoise waterfalls. Next we'll embark upon a modern catamaran and cruise through incredible lakes that sit at the feet of snowcapped mountains. We'll arrive to our beautiful accommodations in the small lakeside outpost of Peulla, where you can enjoy a delicious lunch and choose from a variety of outdoor activities and admire the native flora and fauna.

(B - Hotel Peulla - <http://www.cruceandino.cl/en/>)

JAN 24 Crossing the Andes

Today we'll continue our overland crossing through the Andes. After the bus ride to Puerto Frias and passing into Argentina, we'll cruise through Lago Frias and on to Puerto Blest. Our final boat stretch will take us to Bariloche, Argentina, 'Switzerland of South America'. Enjoy this stunning lakeside town, the surrounding mountainscape, and the plethora of shops and restaurants.

(B - Cacique Inacayal - <http://www.hotelinacayal.com.ar/>)

JAN 25 Bariloche

Today we will explore the landscapes of Bariloche. We'll take a short hike over flat terrain with a local guide who will interpret the sights and sounds of the forest, listening for the trill of the chucaco or tasting herbs indigenous to the forest. For lunch we will enjoy a typical Argentine *parilla* (barbeque) just steps from the headwaters of the Limay River.

(B, L - Cacique Inacayal)

JAN 26 Bariloche - Puyehue

Departing Bariloche in the late morning we will drive around the shore of Nahuel Huapi passing through the Patagonian pampas before rounding the lake and heading back towards the Andes mountains. We will arrive to Villa La Angostura, a small town located on the northern shore of Nahuel Huapi. Surrounded by lakes and forests, the village combines this spectacular landscape with the warmth and beauty of the typical mountain architecture. Here we will stop for lunch before making the drive over the Andes through Cardinal Samore pass. Descending into Chile we will have magnificent views of the Puyehue Lake and volcano before arriving to the fabulous Termas de Petrohue resort where you can relax and enjoy their spa facilities and thermal baths. Together we'll reminisce about our fantastic journey over a rousing send-off dinner.

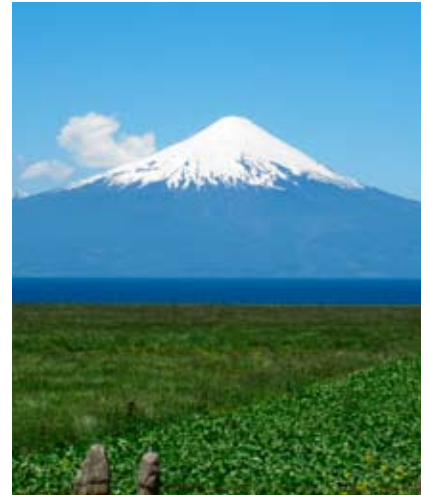
(B, L, D - Termas de Puyehue)

JAN 27 Puyehue – Puerto Montt

After breakfast we'll continue on to the Osorno airport, flying to Santiago to catch onward evening international flights. Recommended international flights: Delta #146 departing at 10:15 pm from Santiago, Chile to Atlanta & Delta #1230 from Atlanta to Minneapolis arriving at 12:14 pm (on Jan 28)

(B)

JAN 28 Arrive in Minneapolis, Minnesota in the morning.



ACCOMMODATION HIGHLIGHTS



Hotel Rugendas - Santiago, Chile



Palafito 1326 - The Island of Chiloe, Chile



Hotel Puelche - Puerto Varas, Chile



Hotel Peulla - The Andes, Chile



Cacique Inacayal - Bariloche, Argentina



Termas de Puyehue - Puyehue, Chile

COST DETAILS

\$3,995* Land Price Per Person Based on Double Occupancy (\$995 Single Supplement)

\$1,800** Estimated Airfare Costs: International = \$1,500 & Regional = \$300

*Note: As currency exchanges and annual price fluctuations vary, this is an approximate cost. Tour price based on minimum 14 travelers. We reserve the right to adjust this price in order to accommodate fewer registrants should there be less than 14.

**Knowmad Adventures will arrange your airfare within Chile and you will be invoiced based on the price at the time of booking (estimated at \$300 USD). They will also assist you in arranging your international airfare, or you may purchase independently. Please contact Knowmad or Peter Olin prior to purchasing international airfare however to be sure your arrival and departure schedule comply with the trip.

INCLUSIONS

Pre-trip services: Trip Information Packet (contains a pack list & details about regions, weather, electricity, etc.) and personalized pre-departure support

10 nights deluxe and boutique accommodations

2 winery visits and tastings

Andes lakes crossing cruise

Daily excursions

All ground transportation

Professional English-speaking guide throughout

Specialized additional local guides on some excursions

10 breakfasts

8 lunches

1 dinner

Escorted by Peter Olin

A \$200 tax-deductible donation to the Arboretum

Museum & National Park entrance fees

Taxes and surcharges while on the tour

EXCLUSIONS

Guide, restaurant, porter gratuities

Chilean entrance fee upon arrival at Santiago International Airport
\$131 for US passport holders

Meals not indicated in the program

Items of personal nature

Travel insurance

International flights

Domestic flight Santiago / Puerto Montt /Santiago. Approximate cost
\$300 USD

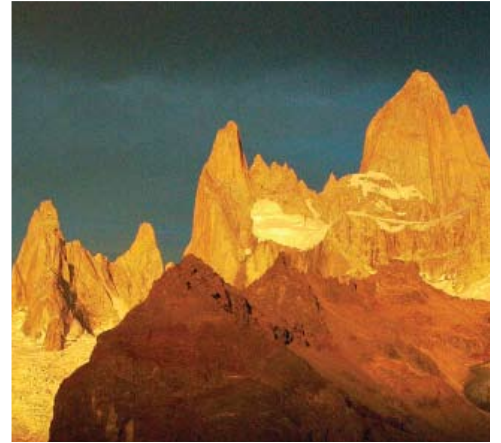
PAYMENT SCHEDULE

DUE UPON RESERVATION	\$400 deposit per traveler + total estimated Air Cost
60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE	50% of total Land Cost
30 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE	Balance

PLEASE REFER TO REGISTRATION FORM FOR TERMS & CONDITIONS

READY FOR THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME?

Signing up is easy. Call us at 1-877-616-8747 and reserve your spot. Or simply fill out this Registration Form and mail to Knowmad Adventures, PO Box 50572, Minneapolis, Mn 55405. We'll then send you a Liability Release and Payment Form with instructions for the deposit. We thank you and look forward to traveling together.



REGISTRATION FORM

If you're more than 2 travelers, download additional forms at www.KnowmadAdventures.com/contact.html. Please print clearly in blue or black pen.

TRIP NAME _____ START DATE _____

TRAVELER ONE

NAME (as it appears on passport) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

GENDER male female BIRTHDAY (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

CITIZENSHIP _____

PASSPORT NO. _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

OCCUPATION _____

MEDICAL CONDITIONS _____

ALLERGIES _____

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PHONE _____

TRAVELER TWO

NAME (as it appears on passport) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

GENDER male female BIRTHDAY (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

CITIZENSHIP _____

PASSPORT NO. _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

OCCUPATION _____

MEDICAL CONDITIONS _____

ALLERGIES _____

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PHONE _____

ACCOMMODATION INFO

I will share accommodations with _____ We prefer 2 twin beds 1 bed

I am a single traveler yes no If available, assign me a roommate yes no