



AUSTRALIS®
CAPE HORN & PATAGONIA



One Way Route 

Discover Patagonia

Ushuaia - Punta Arenas
3 nights | M/V Stella Australis

From
US\$ 1,189
on double basis
ALL INCLUSIVE

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Map



Day ①: Ushuaia

Day ②: Cape Horn – Wulaia Bay

Day ③: De Agostini Sound and Águila Glacier

Day ④: Magdalena Island * – Punta Arenas

* In September and April this excursion is replaced with Marta Island



Day 1: Ushuaia

Check in at 160 Juan Manuel de Rosas Street in downtown Ushuaia between 10:00 and 17:00 (10 AM-5 PM) on the day of your cruise departure. Board the M/V Stella Australis at 17:30 (5:30 PM). After a welcoming toast and introduction of captain and crew, the ship departs for one of the most remote corners of planet Earth. During the night we traverse the Beagle Channel and cross from Argentina into Chilean territorial waters. The lights of Ushuaia disappear as we turn into the narrow Murray Channel between Navarino and Hoste islands.

Day 2: Cape Horn - Wulaia Bay

Around the break of dawn, Stella Australis crosses Nassau Bay and enters the remote archipelago that comprises Cape Horn National Park. Weather and sea conditions permitting, we shall go ashore on the windswept island that harbors legendary Cape Horn (Cabo de Hornos). Discovered in 1616 by a Dutch maritime expedition -- and named after the town of Hoorn in West Friesland -- Cape Horn is a sheer 425-meter (1,394-foot) high rocky promontory overlooking the turbulent waters of the Drake Passage. For many years it was the only navigation route between the Pacific and Atlantic, and was often referred to as the "End of the Earth." The park was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2005. The Chilean navy maintains a permanent lighthouse on the island, staffed by a lightkeeper and his family, as well as the tiny Stella Maris Chapel and modern Cape Horn Monument (currently awaiting repair after being damaged by fierce winds).

Sailing back across Nassau Bay, we anchor at fabled Wulaia Bay, one of the few places in the archipelago where the human history is just as compelling as the natural environment. Originally the site of one of the region's largest Yámana aboriginal settlements, the bay was described by Charles Darwin and sketched by Captain FitzRoy in the 1830s during their voyages on HMS Beagle. This area is also renowned for its mesmerizing beauty and dramatic geography. After a visit to the Australis-sponsored museum in the old radio station -- which is especially strong on the Yámana people and European missionaries in the area -- passengers have a choice of three hikes (of increasing degrees of difficulty) that ascend the heavily wooded mountain behind the bay. On all of these you stroll through an enchanted Magellanic forest of lengas, coigües, canelos and ferns to reach panoramic viewpoints overlooking the bay.

Day 3: Agostini Sound - Águila Glacier

After nightfall we reenter the Beagle Channel and sail westward along the southern edge of Tierra del Fuego into a watery wonderland protected within the confines of Alberto de Agostini National Park. Rounding the Brecknock Peninsula as the western extreme of Tierra del Fuego, Stella Australis is briefly exposed to the open Pacific. We then navigate a zigzag route through the Cockburn Channel, Magdalena Channel and Keats Fjord to reach scenic De Agostini Sound.

Named after an Italian Salesian priest who worked among the region's indigenous people during the first half of the 20th century, De Agostini Sound is flanked by numerous glaciers and sheer saw-toothed peaks reminiscent of Torres del Paine. Our shore excursion this morning is Águila ("Eagle") Glacier, which hovers above a placid glacial lagoon surrounded by primeval forest. After a Zodiac landing on the beach, passengers hike around the edge of the lagoon to a spot near the base of the frozen facade. Condors can sometimes be seen winging high above, but there is always abundant bird life around the lagoon. This landing provides the perfect opportunity to experience the beauty of Patagonia's sub-Antarctic rainforest and to see how the power of nature has molded the spectacular landscape.

NOTE: The excursions described in the itineraries can usually be carried out without any problems. Nevertheless, the shipowner holds the right to alter, change or skip certain portions of the itinerary without prior notice, whether motivated by the passengers' well-being and safety, by the appropriate protection of the environment, or in case of any extraordinary event, unforeseeable circumstance or force majeure. For this reason, departures or arrival may be subject to change. Furthermore, sighting of birds and other species cannot be guaranteed as their exact location is variable by nature.

Day 4: Magdalena Island - Punta Arenas

After an overnight cruise through Magdalena Channel and back into the Strait of Magellan, we anchor off Magdalena Island, which lies about halfway between Tierra del Fuego and the Chilean mainland. Crowned by a distinctive lighthouse, the island used to be an essential source of supplies for navigators and explorers and is inhabited by an immense colony of Magellanic penguins. At the break of dawn, weather permitting, we go ashore and hike a path that leads through thousands of penguins to a small museum lodged inside the vintage 1902 lighthouse. Many other bird species are also found on the island. In September and April -- when the penguins dwell elsewhere -- this excursion is replaced by a ride aboard Zodiacs to Marta Island to observe South American sea lions. After a short cruise south along the strait, disembarkation at Punta Arenas is scheduled for around 11:30 AM.

** Camera extension poles are prohibited on Magdalena Island*



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During the cruise members of the Stella Australis expedition group will host interesting presentations on the wildlife, history and geography of this legendary region. The presentations will take place both on board (with audio-visual support) and on land.

Cape Horn

This lecture reveals the reason why Cape Horn (Cabo de Hornos) is such a legendary geographic feature. In addition to various aspects of the cape's natural and human history, the presentation includes precise instructions for landing at Cape Horn (weather and water permitting).

Patagonia from Ice to Flowers

This presentation details the evolution of local flora after the last Ice Age, which covered more than 60% of Patagonia. It also discusses some of the more important trees, shrubs, flowers and plants that inhabit Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego today.

Wulaia Bay Information in advance

This talk explains the landing in the bay along with the group options for walking to the hill, describing its degree of difficulty, or the walk along the beach. Pictures of the place are shown and the historical importance of this bay from the anthropological and historical point of view (Yaganes, Darwin, Fitz Roy, Jemmy Button) is spoken about.

Talk about the Magellan Strait, past and present

Historical account about the region's explorers and navigators (Magellan, Drake, Sarmiento de Gamboa, Ladrilleros, Schouten, Le Maire, Bouganville, Cook, Parker King, Fitz Roy, Juan Williams, etc.) and the discovery of the straits, trade routes, pirates, attempts to settle the area, its conquest, the founding of Punta Arenas, the colony, its livestock, gold, oil, the economy and importance of the strait today.

Magellanic Penguins

Prior to visiting their colony, learn everything you always wanted to know about Magellanic penguins including facts about their migration cycle, nest construction, reproduction, nutrition and how they nurture their chicks. Around 60,000 pairs nest of Magdalena Island between October and March. They nest in burrows, taking turns incubating the eggs, raising the chicks and venturing into the frigid water for food.

Life onboard

This is the first talk explaining how the ship works, and is accompanied by a review of the national parks that are visited along with the environmental protection policy of Australis.

Visit to Engine Room

A tour is carried out of the engine room with the guides who lead groups and the engineers on shift.



Visit to the Bridge Command

Tour led by guides and the pilot on shift showing the command bridge, the chart table, and the ship's safety devices.

Marine Knots Class

Activity led by the ship's boatswain teaching passengers how to tie sailors knots, with the help of the expedition guides. (1hr)

Welcome to Chile

A fun presentation during which passengers are shown a series of pictures and maps as part of an interactive "game show" format that where they can answer questions and win prizes while tasting Chilean wine.



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