



Patagonia Expedition
Journey to the End of the Earth

JANUARY 5-17, 2017 • ABOARD STELLA AUSTRALIS



Featuring
PULITZER-PRIZE WINNING
AUTHOR, DR. JARED DIAMOND

Dear Commonwealth Members and Friends,

Explore one of the spectacular corners of the world, Patagonia, where we can see nature at its most pristine and desolate—a land of wonders at the end of the earth. Boasting an awesome landscape of pampas, lakes, mountains, glaciers, abundant wildlife, and a wealth of fossils, from prehistoric creatures to ancient humans, the vibrant natural history of Patagonia has intrigued scientists and beckoned explorers for generations.

Joining us on this 13-day land and sea adventure is **Dr. Jared Diamond**, professor of geography at the University of California, Los Angeles and Pulitzer-prize winning author of the widely acclaimed *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*.

Following our flight from Santiago to Punta Arenas, we board the 210-passenger exploration vessel, *M/V Stella Australis*, chosen for her well-appointed accommodations, personalized service and meticulous environmental standards. We then sail through the Strait of Magellan, the Beagle Channel, and the fjords of Tierra del Fuego toward the end of the world to Ushuaia. Weather permitting we'll take Zodiacs to the legendary Cape Horn. Later we'll explore Wulaia Bay, where Charles Darwin landed during his voyage on the *H.M.S. Beagle* and the southernmost beech forests of Tierra del Fuego National Park.

After four nights on board, we disembark in Ushuaia, where our expedition ventures inland to Calafate to explore Glaciers National Park, declared by UNESCO to be part of the Natural Heritage of Humanity. There we marvel at the massive glacier, Perito Moreno, which rises nearly 200 feet above the Iceberg Channel, spans three miles across, and reaches back 22 miles through the Andes to Lago Argentino.

We continue our journey traversing the Andes into Chilean Patagonia to spend three nights in Puerto Natales, the gateway to the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of Torres del Paine National Park, set amid monolithic granite spires, azure colored lakes, and glaciers. Here condors ride on currents above the Andes, and foxes, rheas, and guanacos give chase in the windswept pampas. Participants will have the opportunity to create their own personalized itinerary in this remote area—perhaps horseback riding with a native gaucho, bicycling through a lenga forest to reach a pristine lake, birdwatching by a blue lagoon or hiking at Cerro Paine to the *Paso de los Vientos* (pass of the winds) for a panoramic view of the valley below.

Don't miss this opportunity to travel with the Commonwealth Club, Dr. Diamond and excellent local guides, on an exploration of Patagonia during the Southern Hemisphere's majestic summer. We will be sharing this program with like-minded travelers from the Harvard Alumni Association and National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Join us!

Kristina Nemeth



Director of Club Travel





PERITO MORENO GLACIER

STUDY LEADER



JARED DIAMOND is a Pulitzer-prize-winning author of five best-selling books (translated into 38 languages) about human societies and human evolution. He is the author of *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* and the widely acclaimed *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, which won him a Pulitzer Prize. Diamond is the recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship (Genius Award); research prizes and grants from the American

Physiological Society, National Geographic Society, and Zoological Society of San Diego; and many teaching awards. In addition, he has been elected a member of all three of the leading national scientific/academic honorary societies—National Academy of Sciences, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and American Philosophical Society. As a biological explorer, Diamond's field experience includes 22 expeditions to New Guinea and neighboring islands to study ecology and evolution of birds; the rediscovery of New Guinea's long-lost golden-fronted bowerbird; and other field projects in North America, South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia. He has also taken part in numerous field projects for the Indonesian government and World Wildlife Fund. He is a founding member of the board of the Society of Conservation Biology and a member of the board of directors of World Wildlife Fund/USA and Conservation International. Dr. Diamond is currently professor of geography at the University of California, Los Angeles.



TORRES DEL PAINE



ELEPHANT SEAL

PIA GLACIER

SCHEDULE BY DAY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

U.S. ❖ Santiago

Depart on flights to Santiago, the capital of Chile. Overnight flight. (MEALS ALOFT)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

Santiago

After an early morning arrival in Santiago, transfer to your hotel. An afternoon city tour will introduce us to this city at the foot of the Andes. Then visit the excellent pre-Columbian Museum that chronicles 4,500 years of civilization in the Americas. This evening gather for an orientation and welcome dinner.

HOTEL PLAZA EL BOSQUE PARK & SUITES EBRO (D)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Santiago ❖ Punta Arenas

This morning fly to Punta Arenas, Chile's southernmost city located on the Strait of Magellan opposite Tierra del Fuego. Founded in 1848, in its golden age it served as a port-of-call for all ships circumnavigating the world. We explore the city and see the Salesian Museum's exhibits on the region's history, flora and fauna, indigenous tribes, and mineralogy. In the late afternoon, embark the *Stella Australis*, our home for the next four nights. The Captain and crew welcome us aboard. Immediately after, the ship begins to sail through the Strait of Magellan.

M/V STELLA AUSTRALIS (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Ainsworth Bay ❖ Tuckers Islets

At dawn, navigate through Almirantazgo Sound, arriving at Ainsworth Bay which is situated within Alberto De Agostini National Park. It's the perfect spot from which to see the Marinelli Glacier descending from Darwin Mountain Range in the distance; and to appreciate how the land returns to life after glacial retreat. Enjoy a walk to a beaver dam in the stunning sub-polar Magellan Forest. Whether on the beach or the island, there may be an opportunity of sighting Southern Elephant Seals. Later, sail to Tuckers Islets and board well-equipped Zodiac boats to get close to a colony of Magellan Penguins (indigenous to the Southern Hemisphere) and cormorants.

M/V STELLA AUSTRALIS (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

Pia Glacier ❖ Glacier Alley

Navigate along the northwest arm of the Beagle Channel before disembarking at Pia Fjord. Enjoy a short hike to a panoramic viewpoint from where you can enjoy spectacular views of the awe-inspiring Pia Glacier whose main tongue extends from the mountaintops down to the sea. After this memorable experience, our voyage will continue along the Beagle Channel through the majestic Glacier Alley.

M/V STELLA AUSTRALIS (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Cape Horn ❖ Wulaia Bay

Weather permitting, take Zodiacs to the Cape Horn National Park, a World

Biosphere Reserve, for a panoramic view from the southernmost tip of South America, and referred to as the 'End of the Earth'. At the park, trek down a series of boardwalk lined steps to visit the lighthouse, small Chilean navy station, tiny chapel and sculpture built to honor sailors who lost their lives in these moody seas. Later, explore Wulaia Bay, once home to the region's largest native settlement and where Charles Darwin landed during his voyage on the *H.M.S. Beagle*. Take an enchanted walk to experience the spectacular beauty of the Magellanic beech forest. M/V STELLA AUSTRALIS (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

Ushuaia ❖ El Calafate

Today disembark for the final time in Ushuaia, the most important Argentinean city on Tierra del Fuego and the southernmost city in the world. Spend the morning roaming in the splendors of Tierra del Fuego National Park, famous for its abundant wildlife, dense forest, and snow-capped Andean peaks that reflect in the shimmering waters of the Beagle Channel. Later that day return to Ushuaia where the remainder of the afternoon is unscheduled to explore the streets of this city or visit some of its fascinating museums on your own. In the late afternoon, fly to El Calafate on the southern shore of Lago Argentino (Argentine Lake). HOTEL KOSTEN AIKE (B, D)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

Perito Moreno Glacier

Today, drive through Glaciers National Park, declared by UNESCO as part of the Natural



Heritage of Humanity. The park boasts 47 major glaciers, the only remains of the last Ice Age, and the third-largest concentration of ice in the world. This glacier offers an overwhelming sight and deafening roar every time one of its ice towers breaks into multiple icebergs and plunges into the water. While touring, stop at various lookouts hoping for fabulous views of the glacier calving. HOTEL KOSTEN AIKE (B,L)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

El Calafate ❖ Puerto Natales

Depart El Calafate today and ascend the high Patagonian plateau from where you can appreciate the whole Santa Cruz River Valley, Lake Argentino, and the Andes Mountains in the background. Watch for guanaco and other wildlife. After driving through Patagonia's windswept landscape, cross from Argentina into Chile to Puerto Natales. REMOTA (B,L,D)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY,
JANUARY 14-15

Torres del Paine National Park and Surrounding Area

By far, the most impressive sight in southern Chile is Torres del Paine National Park, known as the crown jewel of Patagonia. It was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1978. The dramatic mountain formations of towering rock, windswept pampas, ice fields, and glaciers, make it an impressive and unforgettable sight. Look out for herds of guanacos and rheas, flamingos, condors, foxes, geese, and black-necked swans. Lakes

and lagoons in hues of blue, green, gray, and ochers abound. The park is surrounded by impressive mountains including the famous *Cuernos del Paine* (Horns of Granite), twisted snow-dusted pillars of gray granite that rise from the flat Patagonian plain. Choose from a variety of included guide led excursions such as hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking or simply relaxing in the park or its surrounding wilderness. REMOTA (2B, 2L, 2D)

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

Torres del Paine ❖ Punta Arenas Santiago ❖ U.S.

Depart this morning for Punta Arenas and travel through Chile's expansive Patagonian pampas, home to rheas, condors, and eagles. Transfer to the airport for a flight to Santiago and connect to overnight flights back to the U.S. (B,L, MEALS ALOFT)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

Return to U.S.

Arrive in the U.S. this morning and connect to flights homeward.

Due to the nature of the ship board explorations and weather conditions, itineraries are guidelines and may change in order to maximize the wildlife and natural encounters and at the discretion of the captain. Variations in the itinerary and the order of days may occur.

PHOTO CREDITS: Cover © Royal Adventures • Perito Moreno Glacier © Argentina Tourist Board • Santiago © Chilean Tourist Board • Zodiac and Whale, Wulaia Bay, Elephant Seal, Pia Glacier, Ushuaia, penguins © Cruceros Australis • Road to Torres del Paine Towers © Kavram/shutterstock.com • Easter Island © powerofforever/istock.com • Guanacos © Anton Ivanov/shutterstock.com • Remota Lodge © Remota.

Optional Pre-Tour Extension to Easter Island

DECEMBER 31, 2016-JANUARY 6, 2017

After overnighting in Santiago, depart the next morning for Easter Island (Rapa Nui). Located 2,600 miles west of Santiago in the South Pacific Ocean, this mysterious island has a visual impact few places in the world can equal. Hundreds of *moais*, tight-lipped basalt statues unique in the whole of Oceania, are scattered throughout the island. The extension includes two nights in Santiago at the Hotel Plaza El Bosque Park and Suites Ebro and three nights at Hotel Hangaroa Eco Village and Spa on Easter Island, breakfasts at the Plaza El Bosque Park and all meals at the Hangaroa including wine or beer, daily sunset cocktail, daily excursions on Easter Island, except for the day of departure and all transfers. Airfare to Easter Island is not included. Approximate roundtrip airfare from Santiago to Easter Island \$630, coach class and subject to change. *Cost: \$2,990 per person, double occupancy, \$3,690 per person, single occupancy. Rates are based on a minimum of 10 guests.*





AAA CABIN



STELLA AUSTRALIS

One of the top expedition ships based in Patagonia, the 292 foot *Stella Australis* was built in 2010 and is equipped with the latest navigation and safety technology. The ship has 100 spacious outside-facing cabins, each with large windows, en suite bathrooms, individual temperature controls and closets. A, AA, AAA category cabins (177 sq. ft.) feature standard-size twins or double beds. AA Superior and AAA Superior cabins (220 sq. ft.) offer larger king size beds (6 x 6.5 feet). Other amenities include ample deck space, three lounges with bars, library, gym, infirmary, gift shop, and single-seating dining room featuring regional and international cuisine served with fine wines. On board naturalist guides will organize daily excursions on Zodiac boats and provide audiovisual talks about the flora and fauna, geography, glaciology, ethnography and history of the Patagonian region.



PROGRAM COST, per person

CABIN CATEGORY ABOARD THE <i>STELLA AUSTRALIS</i>		DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	SINGLE OCCUPANCY
A	177 sq. ft., window 5 x 4 .5 ft., twin or double bed.	\$9,995	\$12,595
AA	177 sq. ft., window 5 x 4.5 ft., twin or double bed.	\$10,395	\$12,959
AAA	177 sq. feet, window 5 x 6 ft., twin or double bed.	\$10,695	\$13,295
AA Superior*	220 sq. ft., window 5 x 4.5 ft., king size bed.	\$11,095	—
AAA Superior*	220 sq. ft., window 5 x 6 ft., king size bed.	\$11,395	—

*There are only 2 AA Superior and 2 AAA Superior Cabins; Please call for availability.

SAMPLE AIRFARE: SFO/Santiago/SFO \$1,300 (as of January 2016 and subject to change).



THE REMOTA LODGE in Puerto Natales, Chile

In the Chilean Patagonia, you'll stay at an all-inclusive lodge in Puerto Natales, the gateway to Torres del Paine National Park. The lodge serves as a place of contemplative refuge and restful return after each journey into the awe-inspiring beauty of Patagonia. Experience exquisite vistas, ultramodern rooms, fine dining, an open bar serving cocktails, wine with meals, expert guides, open-air Jacuzzis, heated indoor infinity pool, and all the service, comforts

and amenities of a five-star hotel. The architecture of the Remota is designed to bring its guests into intimate contact with the magnificent natural world of the remote Patagonian peninsula. A choice of small personalized daily excursions is offered to each passenger while at the lodge. Excursions include hiking, horseback riding, bicycle tours, *estancia* or ranch tours and bird watching, with specialist English-speaking guides.

WHAT TO EXPECT

This program is designed for those who are interested in learning about the history, culture, and superb natural areas of Chile, Argentina and their Patagonia region. This is a moderately active program. Typically, the weather is warm in Santiago (approx. 80°F at noon). Sites in southern Patagonia (Punta Arenas, Torres del Paine, Ushuaia, Glacier National Park, Cape Horn) are usually quite cold in the early morning and late evening, but can be sunny and mild (approx. 60°F) during the day. Winds, which can be strong, are frequent in the southern Patagonia area and weather, as a general rule, is unpredictable. The *Stella Australis* offers two daily shore excursions (weather permitting), which are generally divided into three different groups according to abilities and the choice of the passenger (easy, medium and challenging). Some walks in the Torres del Paine area are approximately one-mile-long (sometimes over uneven terrain); walks can be longer at the participant's discretion. Since some travel will be in remote areas, everyone must be flexible concerning time schedules, food, weather, and dust. In order to enjoy this trip, a spirit of adventure and flexibility, and the desire to explore spectacular natural areas are musts. Travel is by regularly scheduled jet aircraft, expedition ship, zodiacs and motor coach. Altitude does not pose a problem for this itinerary.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM COST INCLUDES: Study leader's lectures and discussions •

Accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • Wine with included dinners • Open bar at Remota Lodge and aboard the *Stella Australis* • Bottled Water on motorcoaches • All land transportation • Three in-tour flights from: Santiago to Punta Arenas, Ushuaia to Calafate, Punta Arenas to Santiago • Professional guides and tour manager throughout • Airport transfers for recommended flights • Domestic airport departure taxes • Entrance fees • Baggage handling • Gratuities to Tour Director, shipboard personnel, guides and drivers • Pre-departure information.

PROGRAM COST DOES NOT INCLUDE: US domestic and international airfare

• Airfare to Easter Island on the optional pre-tour • Passport Fees, Visa Fees and Argentina Reciprocity Fees • Meals not specified in the itinerary • Personal items such as laundry, fax or telephone calls • Alcoholic beverages except those mentioned above • Room service • Excess baggage charges • Private transfers • Medical expenses • Travel insurance • deviations from the scheduled tour • Any increases in the in-tour airfare (included as part of the main program cost), security, or fuel surcharges imposed after the initial pricing of this program are not included.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS & FINAL

PAYMENT: To reserve your space on this program, a \$1,000 deposit and a \$200 deposit for the optional pre-tour extension to Easter Island, if applicable is required per person. Please mail a deposit of \$1,000 per person plus \$200 for the optional extension, payable to "Royal Adventures," along with the completed reservation form to Commonwealth Club Travel, 555 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. You may also call Club Travel at 415-597-6720 or fax the reservation form to 415-597-6729. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt. Final payment is due October 5, 2016 and must be paid by check. Royal Adventures handles all invoicing. CST #2009579-40

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: All cancellations must be made in writing to the Commonwealth Club. Refunds less a cancellation fee of \$600 per person are made if we are notified in writing on or before October 5, 2016. No refunds are made after that date. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations or other trip features.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the Commonwealth Club Tours and the tour operator. While we don't anticipate it, we reserve the right to change a program's dates, staff (including study leader), itineraries, and/or accommodations as conditions warrant.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. In particular, if internal flight prices increase over 10%, these costs will need to be passed on to the travelers.

INSURANCE: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by the Commonwealth Club upon confirmation. Neither the Commonwealth Club nor Royal Adventures accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the tour.

RESPONSIBILITY: A statement of responsibility and liability release will be provided to passengers upon enrollment and is available to prospective travelers on request. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release naming Royal Adventures and the Commonwealth Club of California.

DISCLAIMER: Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. Neither the Commonwealth Club nor the tour operator is responsible for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

QUESTIONS: Please contact Club Travel at 415-597-6720 or e-mail travel@commonwealthclub.org.

RESERVATION FORM

Enclosed is my check or credit card authorization for _____ \$1,000 deposit per person and a \$200 deposit for the optional pre-tour to Easter Island, if applicable (made payable to Royal Adventures) to hold _____ place(s) on the *Patagonia Expedition: Journey to the Ends of the Earth* tour, January 5-17, 2017.

NAME AS ON PASSPORT _____ DOB _____

NAME AS ON PASSPORT _____ DOB _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____

BUSINESS PHONE _____

CELL PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Please charge my deposit of \$ _____ per person to:
 MasterCard VISA American Express

CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____ SEC. CODE _____

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD _____

EASTER ISLAND PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

I/we wish to join the pre-tour Easter Island optional extension. Requires an additional \$200 deposit per person.

SINGLE TRAVELERS

I will require single accommodations
 I will share accommodations with: _____

CABIN PREFERENCE

A Cabin AA Cabin AAA Cabin
 AA Superior Cabin AAA Superior Cabin

I/we want you to book my/our flights from:
_____ Economy Business

Final Payment is due October 5, 2016 by check. You will receive an invoice.

I/We have carefully read the Terms and Conditions and Responsibility sections of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR DEPOSIT TO:

Commonwealth Club Travel
555 Post Street • San Francisco, CA 94102

YOU MAY ALSO FAX THE FORM TO 415.597.6729

Patagonia Expedition

Journey to the End of the Earth

JANUARY 5-17, 2017

Featuring PULITZER-PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR, DR. JARED DIAMOND



HIGHLIGHTS

Listen to lectures and take part in discussions with renowned author and professor, **JARED DIAMOND**.

Marvel at Patagonia's jagged **ANDEAN PEAKS**, changing skies, vast pampas and aquamarine lakes.

Sail the legendary routes of Charles Darwin through the **STRAIT OF MAGELLAN** to Tierra del Fuego and the Beagle Channel.

Explore **CAPE HORN NATIONAL PARK** at the end of the continent.

See the massive glacier, **PERITO MORENO** as it rises nearly 200 feet above its channel.

Be inspired by the wildlife, colors, shapes and sounds of **TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK**, a wonder of the natural world.

Enjoy **SANTIAGO**, Chile's capital city and **PUNTA ARENAS** its southernmost city.

Create a personalized Patagonian itinerary at the **REMOTA LODGE**, perhaps horseback riding on the pampas, hiking in a beech forest, exploring nature by mountain bike or joining a wildlife photographic safari.

