CHILE: TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2020

SPECIAL EDITION | 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

Classic Journeys

World's Best Awards 2017
THE CLASSIC JOURNEYS
DIFFERENCE

“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”
- Travel + Leisure

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.

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:
Just 4-18 travelers, with an average of 10-12. 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...

- Witnessing the total solar eclipse along Chile’s Pacific coast
- Savoring a curanto seafood lunch at a family home on Chiloé Island
- Exploring Torres del Paine National Park in Patagonia over three amazing days
- Enjoying perfectly-sited luxury hotels, including in Patagonia that combines modern design and view of the Last Hope Sound

“The itinerary is spectacular and just creates the perfect Chilean experience.”
— Jeanne R., Peekskill, NY
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. And on December 14, 2020, day will turn to instant night at one of the few places on land where the total eclipse of the sun will be visible. This is your once-in-a-lifetime chance to see it. Many travelers head to 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. On a series of fascinating walks, we 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.
**DAILY ITINERARY**

**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, our welcome dinner offers a glimpse of the city’s lively nightlife.

**OVERNIGHT: SANTIAGO**

**MEALS:** Lunch, Dinner

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**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.

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**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. Dinner tonight is in one of the city’s fine seafood restaurants.

**OVERNIGHT: PUERTO VARAS**

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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**DAY 3**

**Solar Eclipse**

- Getting into prime position for viewing the eclipse
- Meeting the natives of Curarrehue
- Digging into a traditional pit-cooked feast

Today is eclipse day. You can count on your guide to make plans to be in a prime viewing location and have items you’ll need to view the eclipse safely. More than 90% of the path of this eclipse will be over the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Fortunately for you, the narrow path skips across the bottom of South America exactly where you’ll be. Of course, in every way this is a remarkable day that will create memories before and after the black-out of the sun.

You’ll embark on a morning walk through the National Park of Villarica to a scenic viewing point personally guided by your tour leader. Just a short distance from the crowds capturing this spectacle, you’ll get unsurpassed access to the eclipse.

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!

After your epic afternoon, you will head back to your hotel and reminisce on a truly once in a lifetime day.

**OVERNIGHT: PUERTO VARAS**

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel El Parque  A cozy boutique property in the northern lakes district, Hotel El Parque provides a rustic lodge feel with the comforts of home. Enjoy lake front views from your personal suite or family cabin.

**DAY 4**

**Angelmo Market / Patagonia**
- Exploring a lively local marketplace
- Settling into a dramatically located eco-lodge

Great prickly heaps of live sea urchins. Giant barnacles. A hundred kinds of fish – fresh, smoked and dried. And that’s just the seafood section of Angelmo Market where we pay a morning visit. From empanadas to native knits, this waterside market in Puerto Montt is a great place to stroll, talk to the locals, and look at life. You’ll have a chance to put together your own lunch from the irresistible local specialties.

After our visit, 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. Dinner tonight includes the country’s famous beef or lamb and vegetables grown on the property.

**OVERNIGHT: PUERTO NATALES**
**MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner**

**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 the late afternoon to wander the grounds, schedule a spa treatment, or soak in the heated infinity pool before dinner.

**OVERNIGHT: PUERTO NATALES**
**MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**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: Breakfast, Lunch**

**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 NA
TALES
MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

DAY 8
Punta Arenas - Santiago
• Enjoy a guided visit and lunch in Punta Arenas
• Fly back to Santiago in time for evening connections home

This morning, we drive to Punta Arenas with time for a guided visit
and lunch. An afternoon flight gets us to Santiago to make late-day
connections for return flights home.

MEALS: Breakfast
**TRIP ESSENTIALS**

TOURS BEGIN: Santiago - 10:00am - Singular Hotel

TOURS END: Santiago - on arrival of flight from Patagonia

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.

TRIP LENGTH: 8 Days, 7 Nights

INTERNAL AIRFARE: This trip includes several internal flights which are priced separately from the land tour. The total cost for the internal flights is approximately $695 per person.

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**what's INCLUDED...**

- Memorable accommodations for 7 nights
- All breakfasts, 6 lunches and 5 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

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**ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED:** At Classic Journeys, we handcraft surprises into every trip, but some things we just can’t anticipate. 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 we name here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can’t accommodate us. If that happens, we’ll 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!