IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE EXPLORERS
PATAGONIA CRUISE WITH CITY ESCAPE

Embark on this bucket list trip that takes you to the southernmost point in South America. Start off in Santiago, Chile and enjoy the city’s spectacular mountainous backdrop as well as its wine regions then travel south to board a luxurious cruise sailing along the strait of Magellan and finish off in Buenos Aires, Argentina the birthplace of tango.

INCLUDES:
• 4 star superior accommodations in Santiago and Buenos Aires
• international roundtrip airfare from Toronto and domestic flights
• daily breakfast, 7 lunches and 6 dinners
• luxury 4 night cruise onboard MV Stella Australis with all meals and drinks
• shore excursions and sightseeing tours as indicated in the itinerary
• all entrance fees as per program
• English speaking tour guide
• local transportation with A/C bus

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:**
Santiago: Plaza San Francisco Hotel
Cruise: M/V Stella Australis
Buenos Aires: 725 Continental Hotel

**All listed hotels are 4-star hotels.

12 nights
Departs Toronto
Mar. 29, 2016
$6,590* p.p.

CAD$, p.p. dbl occ. from Toronto. Additional $695 in taxes. Single supplement add $2,015. Cruise: dbl occ p.p. based on cat A cabin. Not included: Argentinian reciprocity fee, any personal expenses, such as insurance, passport fees, and gratuities, any meals, or items not mentioned. ON-4493356/4493372 | BC-34799 | 111 Peter Street, Suite 200, Toronto, ON. M5V 2H1 | Canadian owned

merit travel
...for the experience
BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER, SPECIAL BANQUET = (B, L, D)

Day 1 | Tuesday, Mar. 29, 2016 | TORONTO — SANTIAGO
Depart Toronto on Air Canada on AC092 at 10:40 p.m. and arrive in Santiago the following day at 9:20 a.m.

Day 2 | Wednesday, Mar. 30, 2016 | SANTIAGO (D)
Arrival and welcome at the SCL airport, proceed with transfer to the hotel. In the evening get prepared to enjoy a welcome dinner at Como Agua para Chocolate restaurant. This cosy and colourful restaurant in the lively Bellavista neighbourhood will make you feel like you are dining on the plaza of a little village. The menu includes a wide range of delicious Latin American dishes including meat, fish and seafood. Return to the hotel.

Accommodation at 4* Plaza San Francisco Hotel

Day 3 | Thursday, Mar. 31, 2016 | SANTIAGO/ VALPARAISO & VINA DEL MAR/ SANTIAGO (B, L)
Breakfast at the hotel. Today get prepared to join a FD Valparaiso & Viña del Mar tour. The historic city of Valparaíso is Chile’s oldest port. It is also home to the country’s Senate and Chamber of Deputies, which moved here from the capital in 1989, when Chilean democratic governance was re-established. During your tour, you will see the historic city centre, whose fine 19th-Century architecture provides good reason for its inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage list. You will also visit the parliamentary building and Plaza Sotomayor’s memorial to the heroes of the War of the Pacific.

From Valparaíso you will continue along the coast to the beautiful beaches of Viña del Mar, the Garden city, named for its many parks and green spaces. After your visit to Viña del Mar you will return Santiago.

Day 4 | Friday, Apr. 1, 2016 | SANTIAGO (B, L)
Breakfast at the hotel. This full day excursion leads you to the Colchagua Valley south-west of Santiago, one of the best wine-growing districts in Chile, where you will visit two wineries and receive wine tasting as well as lunch. Viña Casa Lapostolle: The motto of Lapostolle is, “Chilean by nature, French by Design.” This reflects the pairing of Chile’s ideal climate and soil with the long winemaking tradition of the French Marnier family, joined together in Viña Casa Lapostolle, located in Cunaco. Today considered one of Chile’s most renowned wineries, it was opened in 1994 by Alexandra Marnier-Lapostolle, a member of the family behind the famous liquor Grand Marnier. Viña Casa Lapostolle covers an area of 370 hectares in three different vineyards, and produces well-crafted varietals of Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Carménère and Syrah.

Viu Manent Winery: The beautiful Viña Viu Manent is idyllically nestled in the green hills of the Colchagua Valley. Guests are welcomed at “La Llavería” visitor centre, located in the winery’s impressive colonial-era main building, together with “La Terraza” and “La Cava de Don Miguel,” two restaurants offering excellent local, Catalan, and French dishes. Visitors have the opportunity to tour the vineyards in a horse-drawn carriage. Return to the hotel.

Accommodation at 4* Plaza San Francisco Hotel

Day 5 | Saturday, April 2, 2016 | SANTIAGO/PUNTA ARENAS/ BOARD AUSTRALIS CRUISE (B, L, D)
Breakfast at the hotel and check out. At the according time private transfer to the SCL airport to take your flight to Punta Arenas. Arrival and welcome at the PUQ airport, proceed with transfer to the Australis offices for making the check in and leave your luggage. Then you will enjoy of a lunch at Los
Granadero restaurant. When you finish lunch, free time and reach the port on your own (the restaurant is located 04 blocks away from the PUQ pier, we recommend to bring a coat in case the weather is windy and cold!)

Board the M/V Stella Australis cruise ship at 18:00. After a welcoming cocktail reception hosted by the Captain and his crew, the ship will depart for one of the remotest parts of the planet. Our trip will take us through the Strait of Magellan and Beagle Channel to explore one of the most breathtaking wilderness regions in the world: Southern Patagonia, which includes the Tierra del Fuego archipelago.

Overnight onboard M/V Stella Australis

Day 6 | Sunday, April 3, 2016 | AINSWORTH BAY/ TUCKERS ISLETS (B, L, D)
At dawn, we will navigate our way through Almirantazgo Sound, arriving at Ainsworth Bay which is sited 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. Whether on the beach or the island, there’s a good chance of sighting Southern Elephant Seals. But do bear in mind the fact that sightings cannot be guaranteed due to the colony’s unpredictable movements.

Later, we will be sailing to Tuckers Islets, and after lunch, we will board well-equipped Zodiac boats to get close to a colony of Magellan Penguins (indigenous to the Southern Hemisphere) and cormorants. In September and April, this excursion is replaced by a short walk to a nearby glacier at Brookes Bay.

Overnight onboard M/V Stella Australis

Day 7 | Monday, April 4, 2016 | PIA GLACIER/ GLACIER ALLEY (B, L, D)
We will navigate along the northwest arm of the Beagle Channel before disembarking at Pia Fjord. From there, we’ll take a short hike to a panoramic viewpoint from where we 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, we will continue our voyage along the Beagle Channel through the majestic Glacier Alley.

Overnight onboard M/V Stella Australis

Day 8 | Tuesday, April 5, 2016 | CAPE HORN/ WULAIA BAY (B, L, D)
We will be sailing through Murray Channel and Nassau Bay to reach Cape Horn National Park, where, weather permitting, we shall go ashore. The legendary Cape Horn was discovered in 1616 and is a sheer 425-meter (1,394-foot) high rocky promontory. For many years it was an important navigation route between the Pacific and the Atlantic, and is referred to as the ‘End of the Earth’. The park was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2005.

In the afternoon, we will go ashore at historical Wulaia Bay, originally the site of one of the region’s largest Yamana aboriginal settlements. Charles Darwin landed there in 1833 during his voyage on the HMS Beagle. We will take an enchanted walk through the Magellan Forest of lengas, coigües, canelos, ferns, and other endemic vegetation, to reach a panoramic viewpoint.

Overnight onboard M/V Stella Australis

Day 9 | Wednesday, April 6, 2016 | ARRIVE USHUAIA/ BUENOS AIRES (B)
Welcome on arrival at the USH pier, proceed with HD Tierra del Fuego National Park tour. Here guanacos, red foxes, beavers and condors live together among forests of cherry trees, lenga trees and Antarctic Beeches (in Spanish fiers). It is the only national park of the country that has a marine coast. During the tour we go deep into the rugged topography and along the crossing mountain roads towards the “Lapataia” River. During the tour, we will visit the Train Station of the Southern Fuegian Railway – Station of the end of the World – and we will make a stop (optional) to take the train that covers the National Park along forests and peat bogs. The narrow gauged convoy will guide us through the old alignment that the prison train had, which was used for the work of the prisoners. Late afternoon transfer to airport for flight to Buenos Aires. Arrive at the domestic airport EZE in Buenos Aires, proceed with private transfer to the hotel.

Accommodation at 4* 725 Continental Hotel

Day 10 | Thursday, April 7, 2016 | BUENOS AIRES (B, D)
The Breakfast at the hotel. Day at leisure. In the evening enjoy of a Dinner and Tango Show ( general location ) Several well-known musical centres of the city offer the chance of enjoying all the magic and charm of Tango, star of the night, while delighting an excellent gastronomy of international level. The show goes through the history of the tango and life at the beginning of last century, with different dance couples and famous singers of tango.

Accommodation at 4* 725 Continental Hotel

Day 11 | Friday, April 8, 2016 | BUENOS AIRES (B, L)
Breakfast at the hotel. Today enjoy of a FD City tour. You will visit the building of the National Congress, the ancient Council, the Metropolitan Cathedral and the Capitol (better known as “Pink House”). The tour also includes the magnificent areas of Recoleta and Palermo, with their beautiful parks and buildings, the Colon theatre, one of the five most important Opera theatres of the world and many other buildings and palaces of architectural, historical and cultural value. We will visit San Telmo area, as well as the Boca district, with its “caminito”. Finally, the tour will lead us to the recently gentrificated district of Puerto Madero, old area of the Buenos Aires port. Lunch included at a local restaurant. Return to the hotel.

Accommodation at 4* 725 Continental Hotel

Day 12 | Saturday, April 9, 2016 | BUENOS AIRES/ END OF THE TOUR (B)
Breakfast at the hotel and check out. At the designated time transfer to the international airport EZE to take your flight back home. Air Canada flight 093 departs Buenos Aires at 16:00 arrives Toronto the following day at 05:35.

Day 13 | Sunday, April 10, 2016 | BUENOS AIRES — TORONTO
Arrival in Toronto at 5:35 a.m.
RESPONSIBILITY
Merit Travel Group Inc. doing business as Merit Travel, acts solely as agents for the Travel Service Suppliers such as hoteliers, airlines, ground service operators, bus operators, etc. who are providing their facilities as described in this brochure. We do our best to select such suppliers but exercise no control over them and cannot be held responsible for the failure of these suppliers to carry out any obligations. Any and all bookings made with these suppliers by you, for you, are subject to the terms and conditions of each and every such supplier. Supplier liability may also be limited by law, tariffs, or conditions set forth in their documentation, tickets, etc. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Merit and its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, successors, assigns, agents and other representatives are not responsible for any and all claims for losses, damages (whether direct, indirect, special, punitive, or other consequential damages, lost profits or opportunities) delays, illness, injuries, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, or anxiety (whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and even if Merit and the Travel Service Suppliers have been advised of the possibility of damages to such party or any other party) arising from:
(a) Fault or negligence or omissions on the part of the said travel service suppliers;
(b) Illness, theft, strikes, mechanical problems, quarantine, governmental intervention, weather conditions, acts of hostility or violence, and any other grounds beyond our control;
(c) Your failure to obtain passport, visas, other travel documents or inoculations;
(d) Your failure to advise us the name of the traveller exactly as it appears on the passport;
(e) Your failure to report on time at an airport or ground transfer facility;
(f) Material damages, theft or other mysterious disappearances of your goods;
(g) Personal injuries or death;
(h) Force Majeure - an event(s) beyond our, or our supplier(s), reasonable control including, but not limited to, acts of God, strikes, lockout or other labour disputes or disruptions, wars, blockades, insurrections, riots, earthquakes, weather conditions, floods or acts of restraints imposed by governmental authorities.

LIABILITY
Merit cannot assume responsibility for any costs incurred for any travel arrangements purchased separately from the Merit tour. Merit’s responsibility shall extend only to the provisions of advice as to industry-standard or supplier recommended connections and check-in times. Provided Merit supplies such advice, they shall not be responsible for missed connections or departures, regardless of the cause.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN (INSURANCE)
Trip cancellation and interruption insurance, medical and hospital insurance, baggage insurance, and various additional insurances are available and HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. If you choose not to purchase insurance, you are required to sign an Insurance Waiver Form. Note that if you choose not to purchase insurance, you are fully liable for any and all penalties imposed as stated under Cancellation Policy on this page. Please speak to your representative at the time of making reservations about insurance.

REFUNDS
The nature of travel involves risks and unpredictable weather and thus Merit cannot assure any departure or arrival times at any point of an itinerary. Your right to receive a refund is limited.
There will be no discounts or monies refunded for any missed or unused services. Merit reserves the right to cancel the tour for any reason. Should this occur, a full refund will be made to the traveller.

CANCELLATION POLICY
While Merit will do its utmost to minimize any penalties charged, there are irrecoverable costs associated with your tour. The following penalties will be considered the costs incurred with cancellation:
(A) 90 days or more prior to departure: Loss of total deposit.
(B) 89 – 60 days prior to departure: Loss of 50% of total tour cost.
(C) 59 days or less prior to departure: Loss of 100% of total tour cost.
Cancellation penalties for some tours will vary and there may be additional penalties associated with the airfare. If so, these policies will be noted separately at time of booking and will prevail.

TOUR CHANGES
We reserve the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines or vessels due to conditions beyond our control. In such cases we will do everything possible to ensure the locations visited, the excursions taken and the hotels offered are similar to the ones originally planned. Any change to itineraries will not result in eligibility for a refund.

REVISION FEE
Changes to your tour reservation might not be possible. Should you request a change and we are able to accommodate it, you will be subject to any charges imposed by the airline or tour suppliers. In addition, we reserve the right to charge a $50 revision fee for any change made after the deposit is paid. A change in name or departure date may constitute a cancellation, and the corresponding penalties may apply.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION
All passengers travelling internationally must travel with a passport. Many countries require the passport to be valid for 6 months beyond the traveller’s return date. Visas may be required for some destinations. It is the passenger’s responsibility to obtain at the passenger’s expense, all documentation required by all relevant authorities. In the event that the passenger does not possess the correct documentation, the air carrier has the right to refuse passage.

DESCRIPTION
Every effort has been made to describe and produce the travel services and photographs as accurately as possible in the printed tour description. However we reserve the right to correct errors and we will make all reasonable efforts to inform you should any significant changes occur. Please note that the living standards and local conditions during your tour may be different from what you are accustomed to at home.

CONSENT
Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute your consent to the above terms.
If you encounter any concerns during your tour, please inform your local travel service provider. If the matter cannot be resolved, please inform Merit Travel in writing upon your return.