



New
This Year

Valparaíso, Chile

16 nights

\$5,995* p.p.

Departs: Feb. 19, 2020

Toronto - \$5,995* p.p.

Vancouver - \$6,595* p.p.

Group size: 30 maximum

🚶 Visits to:

Santiago – Vina del Mar – Puerto Montt –
Puerto Chacabuco – Chilean Fjords –
Canal Sarmiento – Strait of Magellan –
Punta Arenas – Cockburn Channel –
Beagle Channel – Glacier Alley –
Ushuaia – Cape Horn – Port Stanley –
Montevideo – Buenos Aires

✔ What's Included:

- * Roundtrip airfare
- Plaza Premium airport lounge pass
- Santiago: two nights 4-star hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Full-day excursion including: Santiago, Valparaíso and Vina del Mar with lunch and welcome dinner
- Holland America cruise: 14 nights sailing onboard *Zaandam* with meals (onboard the cruise only)
- Merit Travel tour host**
- All transfers, taxes and gratuities***

Includes most meals!

SOUTH AMERICA PASSAGE

By land & sea: Santiago to Buenos Aires

See exotic and vibrant wildlife that will captivate you on this South American Passage cruise. Begin in Santiago, Chile and explore vineyards and the countryside of the famous wine region, Valparaíso. Board Holland America's *Zaandam*, and commence your cruise calling upon Puerto Montt, Puerto Chacabuco, Canal Sarmiento, Punta Arenas, Ushuaia, Cape Horn, Port Stanley, Montevideo, and Buenos Aires!

End your adventure in Buenos Aires, the country's beautiful capital, where the famous Tango dance was born. This cruise and tour offers the perfect introduction to South America with a blend of culture, history, indulgence and natural beauty. Holland America's *Zaandam* is designed to carry fewer guests while offering guests entertainment in elegant and comfortable, space.

While onboard, enjoy cooking shows and hands-on workshops with America's Test Kitchen. Rejuvenate at the Greenhouse Spa & Salon. Indulge at any of the fine dining venues.

Single supplements available!
Call your local Merit Travel expert.





ACTIVITY LEVEL:
EASY PACE

APPROPRIATE FOR:

Travellers in good health with overall good mobility and comfortable participating in at least three hours of activity each day. Suitable for those with minor mobility issues.

Your Itinerary | Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner = (B, L, D)

DAY 1 | Feb. 19, 2020 | Toronto/Vancouver - Santiago

Board your overnight flight to Santiago, Chile.

DAY 2 | Feb. 20, 2020 | Santiago (D)

Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel. Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner with entertainment at restaurant Bali Hai.

Accommodation at Plaza San Francisco Hotel (2 nights)

DAY 3 | Feb. 21, 2020 | Santiago - Vina del Mar (B, L)

After breakfast, start your full-day sightseeing tour of Santiago, Valparaiso and Vina del Mar. Some of the sights include the Parque Forestal (Forest Park), Museo de Bellas Artes (Museum of Fine Arts), Plaza de Armas (Main Square) and Catedral Metropolitana (Metropolitan Cathedral).

From there you will pass by the famous Paseo Ahumada and the Presidential Palace La Moneda, which is the current seat of government. Heading towards the coast, you will pass vineyards, fruit plantations and forest reserves, to reach the beautiful city of Viña del Mar, also known as Ciudad Jardín (Garden City). Once there you will visit the picturesque Reloj de Flores (a traditional clock made of flowers). Travel along Peru Avenue next to the traditional Casino (founded in 1930) with its elegant Hotel del Mar. Enjoy a delicious lunch at a local restaurant in Viña del Mar.

After lunch, continue the drive towards the neighbouring town, Puerto Valparaiso. Puerto Valparaiso, is known as La Joya del Pacífico, (The Jewel of the Pacific), and has been declared a UNESCO

World Heritage Site. The city has one of the most charming, historic and picturesque ports of South America with architecture dating from the 16th century and beautiful views of the bay.

Return to your hotel in Santiago.

DAY 4 | Feb. 22, 2020 | Santiago (B)

Transfer to the cruise pier and board your Holland America cruise.

Cruise departs at 5:00 p.m.

Accommodation onboard Zaandam (14 nights)

Below is information on your cruise itinerary and ports of call you will be visiting. Shore excursions are not included. Meals (B, L, D) and prepaid gratuities are included onboard the cruise.

DAY 5 | Feb. 23, 2020 | At sea (B, L, D)

Enjoy the amenities onboard your cruise ship as you cruise at sea.

DAY 6 | Feb. 24, 2020 | Puerto Montt (B, L, D)

Arrive 8:00 a.m. Depart 5:00 p.m.

Evocative of Switzerland, Chile's lake district is noted for its pristine, almost Alpine scenery and bracing climate. Visit Lake Llanquihue (pronounced "Yankee-way"), and explore the rugged coastline leading to Ensenada.

Marvel at a Fuji-like volcano, Mount Osorno, which rises to a height of 8,500 feet. View the rushing falls and turbulent rapids of Petrohue and cruise the blue-green waters of placid Lake Todos Los Santos. Taste Chilean specialties and enjoy folklore entertainment at a rustic hosteria.

DAY 7 | Feb. 25, 2020 | Puerto Chacabuco (B, L, D)

Arrive 11:00 a.m. Depart 7:00 p.m.

With sculptured icebergs, soaring fjords and Andean peaks, Chilean Patagonia is spectacular. The bird species include black-necked swans and the nearly extinct giant condor. From the fishing village of Puerto Chacabuco, you can visit the area capital, Coihaique, and beautiful Reserva Nacional Rio Simpson.



DAY 8 | Feb. 26, 2020 | Chilean Fjords (B, L, D)

The Chilean Fjords offer some of the most awe-inspiring sights of your journey. Simply look to the sky to see graceful Andean condors floating on the wind. Bring a camera to capture sights of incredible jagged walls of glacier ice rising up from the sea. And for pure enjoyment, watch the antics of the flightless, tuxedoed Magellanic penguins.

DAY 9 | Feb. 27, 2020 | Canal Sarmiento (B, L, D)

The west side of the Sarmiento Canal is flanked by Madre de Dios Island, with towering limestone peaks that fall precipitously into the channel.

The east side is interspersed with islands and eventually meets the Chilean mainland. Stunning Amaila Glacier is a marvelous splash of blue and white in a country that ancient explorers described as, "where the soil is swampy, cold, and unfit for cultivation, and whose climate is thoroughly cheerless."

DAY 10 | Feb. 28, 2020 | Strait of Magellan - Punta Arenas - (B, L, D)

The Strait of Magellan is the passage immediately south of mainland South America. Located between the continent and Tierra del Fuego and Cape Horn to the south, the strait is the biggest and most important natural passage between the Pacific and the Atlantic Ocean.

Arrive in Punta Arenas at 6:00 a.m. Depart at 6:00 p.m.

Punta Arenas is the southernmost city on Earth, overlooking the Straits of Magellan. Situated astride one of the world's historic trade routes, its prosperity has risen and fallen with that trade. Punta Arenas enjoyed its first great boom during the California Gold Rush, when it served as a haven for great clipper ships. Although the port's importance diminished after the opening of the Panama Canal, the city reached even greater prosperity early in this century as the centre of Chile's international wool trade.

Today, Punta Arenas reflects a great mix of cultures, from English sheep ranchers to Portuguese sailors, and it remains an utterly fascinating testament to Chile's history. Punta Arenas is also the starting point for excursions to some of the most spectacular scenery in the world.

Cattle stations and small frontier towns are the only signs of human habitation on the remote Beagle and Cockburn Channels. The waters however, are alive with fish and fauna, including sealions and comical Magellan and Humboldt penguins. Beagle Channel flows to the south of Tierra del Fuego, South America and is named after the ship of Charles Darwin's voyage.

DAY 11 | Feb. 29, 2020 | Glacier Alley - Ushuaia (B, L, D)

Arrive 12:00 p.m. Depart 8:00 p.m.

The world's southernmost city, Ushuaia overlooks Beagle Channel. Founded just over one hundred years ago, this rustic town is situated amidst incredible snow-capped mountains, dramatic waterfalls, massive glaciers, and a forest known for its red foliage. Tierra del Fuego, the *Land of Fire*, twelve miles to the west of Ushuaia, is known for its glacial landscape and its national park; a bird-watcher's paradise.

DAY 12 | Mar. 1, 2020 | Cape Horn (B, L, D)

Rounding the extreme southern tip of South America, you'll be awestruck by the rugged beauty and imposing vision of Cape Horn, a craggy, massive rocky point that was the bane of early explorers.

DAY 13 | Mar. 2, 2020 | Port Stanley (B, L, D)

Arrive 8:00 a.m. Depart 6:00 p.m.

Port Stanley is the only town on the Falkland Islands, and though it has little more than 1,200 residents, it contains half of the islands' population. There are 700,000 sheep, and a wonderful assortment of sea birds and elephant seals.

DAY 14-15 | Mar. 3 to 4, 2020 | At sea (B, L, D)

Enjoy the amenities onboard your cruise ship as you cruise at sea.

DAY 16 | Mar. 5, 2020 | Montevideo (B, L, D)

Arrive 8:00 a.m. Depart 6:00 p.m.

Slightly threadbare and charmingly out of date, Montevideo harks back to pre-war days when it was the 'Switzerland of South America'. Art deco and art nouveau façades reflect this flourishing past, while the impressive Plaza Independencia, with its colonnades and open-air cafés, is a perfect place to savour the present.

DAY 17 | Mar. 6, 2020 | Buenos Aires (B, L, D)

Arrive 8:00 a.m.

Dynamic and bustling, a city which seems never to sleep, Buenos Aires is one of the most exciting cities in Latin America. Tango was born here, restaurants serve all manner of world cuisine, bars play the latest music, cafés spill on to the streets and nightclubs allow dancing throughout the night.

Buenos Aires is famous throughout South America for its theatres, museums and galleries.

DAY 18 | Mar. 7, 2020 | Buenos Aires - Toronto/Vancouver (B)

After breakfast, disembark your cruise and transfer to the airport for your flight home.

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 us, 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 Travel 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.

PRICING

All prices are per person in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted. GST, HST and provincial taxes are applicable on tours as noted.

INCREASE IN TOUR COSTS

Merit Travel reserves the right to increase tour prices in the event of an increase in government and airport authority imposed taxes and fees, fuel and currency surcharges, supplier price increases, or any other cost increase. If the increase is greater than 7% of the tour cost, the client may cancel the booking within seven days of notification and obtain a full refund.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit of \$750 per person is required at time of booking. Full and final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Please note, some of our suppliers may require additional deposit or full payments at time of booking, pending seasonality. You will be advised of additional requirements at time of booking.

LIABILITY

Merit Travel cannot assume responsibility for any costs incurred for any travel arrangements purchased separately from the Merit Travel tour. Merit Travel's responsibility shall extend only to the provisions of advice as to industry-standard or supplier recommended connections and check-in times. Provided Merit Travel 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 Travel 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 Travel 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 Travel 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.