Monday, March 25

**EL CALAFATE/TORRES DEL PAINE**

After the main program to Argentina ends this morning, depart El Calafate and climb up towards the high Patagonian plateau from where we can appreciate the whole Santa Cruz River valley, the Argentine Lake, and the Andes Mountains in the background. After driving through typical Patagonian windswept landscapes, we arrive at the Argentina/Chile border at Cancha Carrera pass. We clear customs and immigration formalities and continue on to Torres del Paine National Park, declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1978.

As we approach the park, gaze beyond Lago Sarmiento to the Paine Massif with its spectacular granite Towers and the magnificent Horns. In the background, glimpse the Southern Patagonian Icefield. Along the way, enjoy photograph stops and spotting herds of guanacos and other wildlife. Our destination is the Remota hotel, renowned for its architecture, cuisine and views. Arrive in the afternoon and settle into your room. In the evening, the experienced staff explains your options for half and full-day tours the next day, which range from easy walking, horse riding or cultural excursions to more challenging treks and outdoor adventures. There is something for every type of traveler! Later, gather for dinner in the hotel’s restaurant.

*Remota* (B, BL, D)
Tuesday, March 26

TORRES DEL PAINE & SURROUNDING

Begin the first of three full days to explore the impressive Torres del Paine National Park and the surrounding areas outside of the park. Located at the southernmost end of the Andes, Torres del Paine is one of the newest nature reserves in South America. Dramatic mountain formations, windswept pampas, ice fields and glaciers make it an impressive and unforgettable sight.

After breakfast, embark on the tour of your choice with an experienced, English-speaking guide. Excursion groups include no more than eight passengers and venture primarily to one of four areas of the park and surrounding land: Torres del Paine, Puerto Natales and Sierra Dorothea hill, the Baguales Mountain Range, and the Southern Fjords. All tours are subject to environmental, weather and other conditions. Your guides will keep you well informed. You can visit the hotel’s website (remotahotel.com) to learn more.

For example, today perhaps choose a full-day for bird watching and exploration of Dos Lagunas. This gentle expedition offers up-close views of a variety of ducks, such as the flying steamer duck and the Yellow-billed pintail, Buff-necked ibis, coots, Southern widgeons, White-tufted and Great grebes, Black-necked swans, Coscoroba swans, oystercatchers, doves and flamingos. If you’re lucky, you’ll also spot condors, eagles and caracara. In the evening, return to the hotel for dinner, free time and to meet with your guides to discuss options for tomorrow. 

Remota (B, L, D)

Wednesday, March 27

TORRES DEL PAINE

The Torres del Paine Park is surrounded by impressive mountains including the famous Cuernos del Paine (Paine Horns), twisted pillars of gray granite rising from the flat Patagonian plain, and the Torres del Paine massif’s (towers) spectacular granite peaks. After breakfast this morning, you might choose to visit the base of these towers. This is a difficult, full-day walk with an 800 meter elevation
gain. Begin at the Estancia Cerro Paine, climbing to the Los Vientos pass, offering panoramic views of the pampa, lakes and the Río Ascencio Valley. After three hours, arrive at the foot of a glacier moraine, then climb from boulder to boulder until we arrive at the lake at the base of the Towers. This is an unforgettable experience that any hiker will keep close to his or her heart.

Or, perhaps you’ll pursue a moderately difficult excursion to explore caves that served as the first sheltered inhabited area of Patagonia, such as the Cueva del Medio, Cueva de la Ventana, Dos Herraduras, and the Cueva del Milodón. Walk along rock walls that conserve vestiges of paintings that are estimated to be thousands of years old. Arrive at the Lake Sofía Viewpoint, for a majestic perspective of the valley. Whichever adventure you’ve chosen, enjoy dinner back at the resort in the evening.

**Thursday, March 28**

**TORRES DEL PAINE & SURROUNDING**

On your final full day in Patagonia, you might choose to experience gaucho life in the pampas. First, visit Puerto Consuelo, the first estancia in the province of Última Esperanza, to learn about the history of ranching in the area. Then, travel to Villa Luisa where we will enjoy a delicious traditional lamb BBQ.

Because Villa Luisa cannot be reached by road, you can choose your method of reaching it: 1 hour of moderate trekking, 5 hours of hiking, 3 hours by bicycle, or 10 minutes in a zodiac boat. Once there, owner Hermann Eberhard, the great-grandson of the property’s first pioneer, welcomes us and shares the story and history of his family. In the evening, return to the hotel for your final night at Remota.

**Remota**  (B, L, D)
Friday, March 29
PUERTO NATALES/ PUNTA ARENAS/ SANTIAGO
Depending on our flight time, enjoy breakfast and your last morning in this remarkable land. Later, depart the Remota and transfer to Punta Arenas, Chile’s southernmost city. After a brief tour of the area, fly north to Chile’s capital of Santiago. Settle into your hotel and enjoy dinner on your own.
Plaza el Bosque or similar   (B)

Saturday, March 30
SANTIAGO
After breakfast, tour Santiago’s historical center, including the Civic Center, La Moneda and Plaza de Armas. Later, enjoy an exclusive farewell lunch at Viña Santa Rita, located in the nearby Central Valley, home to many of Chile’s finest wineries. Enjoy the use of your hotel room until it is time to transfer to the airport for overnight flights back to the United States.
Plaza el Bosque or similar   (B, L)

Sunday, March 31
ARRIVE U.S.
This morning, arrive in the United States and join connecting flights to your home airport.