Preliminary Itinerary
Chile & Argentina: The Total Solar Eclipse—Its Science and Splendor
December 6 – 15, 2020

Overview
On December 14, 2020, the Patagonian Lakes District—a mythic land of glaciers, volcanoes, primeval forests, gauchos, and pampas—will be one of the best places to view the total solar eclipse. With Ray Jayawardhana, the Harold Tanner Dean of Arts and Sciences and professor of astronomy at Cornell, CAU will experience the eclipse at a private viewing site located in the middle of the band of totality.

Itinerary
Sunday, December 6: Home / Santiago, Chile
Depart the US on an overnight flight to Santiago, Chile.

Monday, December 7: Santiago
Arrive in the morning and transfer to the fashionable Cumbres Hotel Lastarria. This afternoon, you may choose to enjoy an optional short walking excursion of the historic Lastarria neighborhood’s fine shops, restaurants, and museums. We will gather for a welcome reception and dinner this evening.
*Cumbres Hotel Lastarria (R, D)*

Tuesday, December 8: Santiago
Following a morning welcome lecture, we will experience the colorful sights and culture of Chile’s capital city. As we stroll through Santiago’s streets, we’ll visit the Cousino Palace, poet Pablo Neruda’s Santiago home La Chascona, and the Chilean Museum of Pre-Columbian Art, home to one of the finest collections of pottery, sculptures, and textiles from Central and South America. This evening, the group will visit a local observatory perched above Santiago for an introduction to the southern skies.
*Cumbres Hotel Lastarria (B, L)*

Wednesday, December 9: Santiago / Puerto Varas
Today, we fly south to Puerto Montt, a fishing port located in a sheltered harbor. Upon arrival, our group will visit a local nature reserve to see native plants, wildlife, and the magnificent alerce forests, comprised of trees that resemble sequoias. We will then continue a short distance to arrive at Puerto Varas, an idyllic 19th-century village whose immaculate avenues are lined with rose trees. Our five-star hotel overlooks Lake Llanquihue with its deep blue waters reflecting the magnificent, snow-capped Osorno Volcano.
*Cumbres Hotel Puerto Varas (B, L, D)*
Thursday, December 10: Puerto Varas
We will explore the charming German-style towns surrounding Lake Llanquihue, including Frutillar, famous for art, classical music, and German pastries. We’ll have the opportunity to sample beers from Puerto Varas’ Chester microbrewery and learn about the region’s 19th century German settlers at the Felmer Museum.
*Cumbres Hotel Puerto Varas (B, L)*

Friday, December 11: Lakes Crossing to San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina
A drive along the southern shore of Lake Llanquihue brings us to the Petrohue Falls, where a short walk leads to a scenic panorama of forested slopes, azure streams tumbling over boulders, and imposing Osorno Volcano. Our group will continue on modern enclosed catamarans, crossing three emerald lakes among snow-capped peaks and volcanoes. We will disembark in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina and transfer to our centrally located hotel in town.
*Hotel Edelweiss (B, L)*

Saturday, December 12: San Carlos de Bariloche / Villa La Angostura
This morning, we will orient ourselves to the region atop Mt. Campanario with stunning panoramic views of Lake Nahuel Huapi and the Andes. We will traverse the famously scenic “Route of the Seven Lakes” with visits to local waterfalls and Lake Traful and Lake Correntoso. This evening, we’ll settle into our lakeshore hotel located in the forests outside of the town of Villa La Angostura.
*Hotel Correntoso (B, L, D)*

Sunday, December 13: Lanin National Park
The group will spend the day exploring nearby Lanin National Park’s lakes, rivers, volcanoes and the ancient Araucaria Araucana trees. This afternoon, you will have the option to enjoy the nearby town of Villa La Angostura or the lakeside forest by the hotel where the Correntoso River flows into Lake Nahuel Huapi.
*Hotel Correntoso (B, L, D)*

Monday, December 14: ECLIPSE DAY: Villa La Angostura / Path of Totality
We will depart in the morning to a private site within the eclipse’s path of totality. We’ll arrive several hours before the eclipse with plenty of time check equipment and prepare. Please note: Cloud conditions can change and ideal weather conditions for viewing the eclipse are not guaranteed. We will enjoy a traditional Patagonian barbecue lunch prior to the eclipse this afternoon, and then celebrate the eclipse and our journey at a farewell dinner this evening.
*Hotel Correntoso (B, L, D)*

Tuesday, December 15: Villa La Angostura / Buenos Aires / Home
After a free morning, we will drive to the Bariloche airport in order to fly out to Buenos Aires. In Buenos Aires, connect to overnight flights back to the U.S.
*(B, L, meals aloft)*