

*Journey Idea onboard the
Mare Australis / Via Australis / Stella Australis
Ushuaia, Argentina - Punta Arenas, Chile.*



4 Days
Prepared for
Steppes Travel Clients

QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Ushuaia
Day 2	Cape Horn / Wulaia Bay
Day 3	Piloto and Nena Glaciers
Day 4	Magdalena island / Punto Arenas

Cruceros Australis is a modern fleet of cruise ships; Mare Australis, Via Australis and Stella Australis (under construction and due to set sail in December 2010). The cruise ships work on a continuous rotation so as they arrive in port one day, they are ready to set off on the return leg later that day. Details of these timings are shown on page 4.

This particular cruise navigates between the Argentine city of Ushuaia (the southernmost in the world) and the Chilean city of Punta Arenas, including the Strait of Magellan, and the Beagle Channel in the extreme south of the American continent.

En route one can admire Impressive glaciers, native forests, and penguin plus elephant seal colonies on the journey towards the mythical Cape Horn which was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO.

The trip includes daily excursions in Zodiac boats, directed by the multilingual expedition team, complemented by cultural lectures about the natural surroundings.

The cruise is “all-inclusive”: breakfast, lunch, dinner, and an open bar for wine, beer, liquor and other beverages. The menu combines international cuisine and local recipes, which allows the discovery of the delicious and varied regional gastronomy, accompanied by Chilean and Argentine wines making this a wonderful experience.

MAP



QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1



Ushuaia

Check in at San Martín 245 in Ushuaia between 9:00am to 4:00pm with boarding on the Mare/Via/Australis at around 6:00pm.

The Captain and crew shall give a welcome cocktail reception on board on board and immediately afterwards, the ship departs for “the uttermost part of the earth.” Firstly depart through the the Beagle Channel and the Strait of Magellan to explore one of the most captivating wilderness regions in the world: Southern Patagonia, and Tierra del Fuego.

Overnight on the Mare/Via/Stella Australis on a full board basis including excursions.

Day 2



Cape Horn / Wulaia Bay

Heading through the Beagle and Murray channels the Mare/Via/Stella Australis shall reach Cape Horn National Park. Here you shall disembark (weather permitting). Cape Horn, is a sheer, 425-meter (1,394-foot) high rocky promontory, and in the past it was the only entrance to the Pacific Ocean. Cape Horn is known as the “End of the Earth”, and it’s the last territory before Antarctica. The park was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in June 2005.



In the afternoon, go ashore in historic Wulaia Bay, once the site of one of the region’s largest Yamana aboriginal settlements. Charles Darwin landed here on January 23rd, 1833, during the voyage of the HMS Beagle. This area is also renowned for the mesmerizing beauty of its vegetation and geography. Walk through a Magellanic forest of Lengas, Coihues, Canelos, ferns, and other native vegetation to reach a look-out point.

Overnight on the Mare/Via/Stella Australis on a full board basis including excursions.

Day 3



Piloto Nena Glaciers

In the morning sail through the desolate Brecknock and Ocasión channels, to reach Cockburn Channel in the afternoon. After lunch, arrive at Chico Sound and disembark in Zodiac boats to explore Alakaluf Fjord. Here you can view its beautiful waterfalls and not to mention the Piloto and Nena glaciers. Here learn about the formation of glaciers and their influence in the abrupt geography of the region’s channels.

Overnight on the Mare/Via/Stella Australis on a full board basis including excursions.

Days 4

Magdalena Island / Punta Arenas



Early this morning, go ashore on Magdalena Island (weather permitting). Located in the Strait of Magellan, Magdalena Island was an essential source of supplies for navigators and explorers a long time ago. The island is inhabited by an immense colony of Magellanic Penguins which can be sighted during a walk to the lighthouse which is essential for ships on their way through the strait. During the months of September and April this excursion is replaced by a Zodiac boat ride at Isla Marta to hopefully see a colony of sea lions. After the visit, sail to Punta Arenas, disembarking at around 11:30am.

DEPARTURES FROM USHUAIA

Mare Australis							Via Australis								
Wednesday to Saturday / Miércoles a Sábado							Saturday to Tuesday / Sábado a Martes								
September	2010					22	29								
October	2010	6	13	20	27					9	16	23	30		
November	2010	3	10	17	24					6	13	20	27		
December	2010	1	8							4	11	18	25		
Tuesday to Friday / Martes a Viernes															
December	2010			21	28					1	8	15	22	29	
January	2011	4	11	18	25					5	12	19	26		
February	2011	1	8	15	22					5	12	19	26		
March	2011	1	8	15	22	29				2					
April	2011	5	12												

Stella Australis							
Wednesday to Saturday / Miércoles a Sábado							
December	2010					22	29
January	2011	5	12	19	26		
February	2011	2	9	16	23		
March	2011	2	9				

TRIP PRICE

Estimated cost from **£1,485 per person** based upon two people sharing a twin/double AA cabin travelling during the low season period.

Please note that the price excludes international and internal flights plus any additional accommodation at this stage in Argentina or Chile.

Please contact Emma or Oliver for more details on 01285 885333 and to arrange a trip.

Why Travel with Steppes?

Steppes Travel was founded in 1989 with the objective of creating a travel company where service and knowledge are of the highest priority. We aim to design itineraries and include the highlights of any country, whilst taking travellers off the beaten track to see lesser known, interesting places not frequented by large numbers of tourists. We offer individuals the ability to travel safely in remote areas, with the knowledge that we have travelled there before.

Financial Protection

Steppes Travel is a fully bonded tour operator that complies with the Civil Aviation Authority bonding conditions of the UK. This fully guarantees your money in the unlikely event of us going out of business before you start your holiday. Our ATOL number is 6945 and we have full insurance to cover the financial failure of an airline. In addition, all accommodation-only bookings (such as hotels, lodges and boats) which are not covered by the ATOL regulations are financially protected with all payments being held in a separate trust account until the date of departure. This is in accordance with the Package Travel Regulations Act 1992.

Specialist Knowledge

We demand and employ only a very high calibre of staff. All of our specialists have a wealth of travel experience and have travelled, and continue to travel, extensively throughout their regions of specialisation. You can therefore rely on their first hand knowledge and expertise. Some have been with us for more than ten years. They will tell you about those intimate, friendly hotels and introduce you to our charismatic guides - those little extra qualities that make your holiday both unique and special.

A Tailor-made Journey

After an initial discussion with you, one of our specialists will create a unique itinerary for your trip, designed around your own interests, preferred style of accommodation and the pace at which you like to travel. This will be fine tuned until you are completely satisfied with it. Throughout this whole process, you will be dealt with by the same specialist and you are welcome to call them at any time.

24 hour Emergency Service

We have an emergency service so that we can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Recognition

More than 65% of our business is achieved through recommendations, referrals and repeat bookings. This, for us, is the highest endorsement we could have. In addition, our 20 years of experience in this specialist travel sector confirms our expertise.

Please contact the Latin America team on 01285 885 333 or visit our website www.steppestravel.co.uk for further information.