

# CHILE

# Magical Chiloé & Patagonia

*Optional Pre-Extension to Easter Island,* December 31, 2025 – January 5, 2026

# January 5–17, 2026

Study Tour featuring Raymond Craib, The Marie Underhill Noll Professor of History

# Dear Cornellians & Friends,

We invite you to travel with us to one of the most mysterious and remote regions on Earth: Patagonia. With its dramatic Andes peaks, sweeping pampas, secluded islands, Andean lakes, diverse wildlife, and rich fossil troves spanning prehistoric creatures to ancient humans, Patagonia's vibrant natural history has long captivated scientists and adventurers alike.

Our journey begins in Santiago, Chile, at the base of the Andes, where we'll be joined by Professor Raymond Craib, The Marie Underhill Noll Professor of History at Cornell University. Together, we'll explore 4,500 years of pre-Columbian civilization, Chile's colonial past and a deep dive into its more recent history at the Museum of Memory and Human Rights, commemorating victims of the Pinochet regime. Outside the capital, we'll visit the Casablanca Valley, renowned for its wines. A highlight will be a wine-paired lunch and tour at Kingston Family Vineyards, owned by an American family for five generations.

Next, we'll fly to Chiloé, a mist-enshrouded archipelago at Patagonia's northern edge, known for its mystical charm. From the stunning Hotel Refugia Chiloé, perched on a hilltop with panoramic views of the Pullao wetlands and Rilán Peninsula, we'll embark on daily individualized guided excursions. Here, we'll discover the interwoven colonial and indigenous cultures, learning about the traditions, religions, and myths that shape the region's farming and fishing heritage.

From Chiloé, we continue to Puerto Varas, with its breathtaking lakes, waterfalls, and snowcapped volcanoes, before heading to Punta Arenas, Chile's southernmost city on the Strait of Magellan, across from Tierra del Fuego. The final leg of our adventure takes us to the heart of Patagonia's wild beauty. You'll find comfort and tranquility after hours of exhilarating exploration at the well-appointed Hotel Las Torres, located in the heart of Torres del Paine National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Choose your own adventure: trek through a national park, ride horseback CHILOÉ ISLAND with gauchos across windswept pampas, bike through majestic forests, or navigate by boat around a glacier-filled lake.

Torres del Paine National Park offers an unparalleled spectacle of nature, with soaring granite spires, sprawling ice fields, and ancient glaciers. Spot condors gliding high above the Andes, and watch as foxes, guanacos, and rheas roam the pampas below.

With top-tier accommodations and exceptional guidance throughout, this journey promises to be an extraordinary educational experience in one of the planet's most pristine regions. For those wishing to extend their Chilean adventure, a pre-tour to Easter Island is also available.

Warmly,

CAU (Cornell's Adult University), Alumni Affairs





# Study Tour Leader

# RAYMOND CRAIB

Raymond Craib is the Marie Underhill Noll Professor of History at Cornell University, where he has taught since 2001. A specialist in modern Latin American history, he has published widely on the history of Mexico and Chile, as well as the Caribbean, Central America, and the southwest Pacific. He has led CAU programs to Chile

and Argentina and to Spain. Craib is the author of *Cartographic Mexico: A History of State Fixations* and *Fugitive Landscapes* (2004); *Adventure Capitalism: A History of Libertarian Exit from the Era of Decolonization to the Digital Age* (2022); and *The Cry of the Renegade: Politics and Poetry in Interwar Chile* (2016), which is based on a decade of research in Chile between 2006 and 2015. He is currently working on a history of 20th century Chile through the life and work of *novelist and vagabond intellectual Manuel Rojas.* 

# CASABLANCA VALLEY

Chile

**PUERTO** 

TORRES DEL PAINE

PARK

NATIONAL

PUNTA

RENAS

VARAS

# Itinerary

# Monday, January 5, 2026

## U.S. / Santiago, Chile

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Santiago, Chile. (MEALS ALOFT)

# **Tuesday, January 6**

#### Santiago

Arrive in Santiago this morning and transfer to our fivestar hotel. An afternoon tour will introduce us to this city at the foot of the Andes, including the summit of San Cristobal Hill, Moneda Presidential Palace and the bustling Plaza de Armas, showcasing the colonial charm and modern architecture that defines the essence of Santiago. This evening, gather for a welcome dinner. RITZ-CARLTON SANTIAGO (D)

#### Wednesday, January 7 Santiago

This morning we'll spend time at the Museum of Memory and Human Rights, an institution that commemorates the victims of human rights violations during the military dictatorship led by Augusto Pinochet between 1973 and 1990. Through interactive exhibits, photographs, and testimonials, you'll gain deep insights into this poignant chapter of Chilean history. Proceed to the Pre-Columbian Art Museum, a gem of Santiago, housing a remarkable collection of artifacts from ancient civilizations. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, with the remaining of the day at leisure to explore on your own. RITZ-CARLTON SANTIAGO (B, L)

#### Thursday, January 8 Casablanca Valley

This morning we'll spend the day in beautiful Casablanca Valley, one of Chile's renowned wine regions. At Kingston Family Vineyards, a boutique winery known for its handcrafted, sustainable wines, we'll enjoy a scenic walk through the vineyards, where you'll learn about the unique climate and soil conditions that make Casablanca Valley one of Chile's premier wine regions. Indulge in a delicious farm-to-table lunch featuring fresh, local ingredients perfectly paired with Kingston's wines. Following lunch, we will continue to Viña Mar Winery, and learn more about their innovative winemaking practices. Enjoy a guided wine tasting featuring a selection of Viña Mar's signature wines, including Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir, while taking in the beautiful views of the valley. RITZ-CARLTON SANTIAGO (B, L)



MUSEUM OF MEMORY AND HUMAN-RIGHTS, SANTIAGO



To reserve your space, contact CAU partner, Royal Adventures by PHONE: 800-453-4754 or EMAIL: info@royaladventures.com



### Friday, January 9 Santiago / Chiloé Island

We transfer to the airport for a short flight to Castro on the enchanting island of Chiloé. Chiloé is a land steeped in myths and legends, with a unique history and identity deeply rooted in indigenous traditions and Spanish colonial influences. Alongside its breathtaking natural beauty and wildlife, the island is known for its colorful and distinctive "palafitos," or stilt houses, built on the water, and its historic churches appearing like a beacon in every bay; 16 of them declared UNESCO World Heritage Monuments. Upon arrival in Chiloé, we will enjoy a scenic drive to our luxury boutique hotel. With a location touting serene, panoramic views of Pullao Bay and the southern archipelago, the hotel is renowned for its sustainable design, personalized service, and strong connection to the island's landscapes and traditions. HOTEL REFUGIA, CHILOÉ (B, D)

# Saturday, January 10 Chiloé Island

Begin your day with a hearty breakfast, fueling up for a day of discovery. Explore Chiloé's stunning natural beauty at your own pace with a variety of activities suited to all interests and fitness levels, including hiking, birdwatching, kayaking and cultural tours to name a few. Whether by land, sea, horseback, or bicycle, every adventure reveals the island's magic. Return to the hotel and unwind in ultimate relaxation—soak in the jacuzzi, take a dip in the outdoor heated pool, or settle in to the cozy lounge next to the fireplace while you reflect on the day's experiences. HOTEL REFUGIA, CHILOÉ (B, L, D)

# Sunday, January 11 Chiloé Island / Puerto Varas

Today we will transfer to Chacao and take a scenic crossing of the Chacao Channel via a local ferry. During the crossing, we may have the opportunity to spot sea lions, seals, and endemic birds that inhabit the region's coastal waters. Upon arrival back on land, continue on a drive to Puerto Varas, a charming German-style town facing Lake Llanquihue with breathtaking views of the snow-capped volcanoes, Osorno and Calbuco, reflected in the lake's clear waters. We take the remainder of the day to explore this quaint town surrounded by beautiful vistas. HOTEL WYNDHAM PETTRA PUERTO VARAS (B, BL, D)

# Monday, January 12 Puerto Varas / Punta Arenas

This morning, transfer to Puerto Montt airport for our flight to Punta Arenas, Chile's southernmost populated city located on the Strait of Magellan, across from Tierra del Fuego. Founded in 1848, in its golden age it served as a portof-call for all ships circumnavigating the world. Upon arrival, we'll have time for a city tour, where we'll explore historic landmarks and sites like Plaza Muñoz Gamero and the Salesiano Museum, while learning about the city's rich, and also violent past including fascinating stories of explorers, settlers, and indigenous cultures that shaped this city. CABO DE HORNOS (B, L)

# **Tuesday, January 13** Punta Arenas / Torres del Paine National Park

We travel north through expansive Patagonian pampas to Torres del Paine National Park. On the way look for guanacos, rheas and condors. Stop at Estancia Cerro Negro, a traditional sheep farm where we'll enjoy a hearty Patagonian lunch and spend time learning about rural life and local agriculture. Continue through stunning landscapes of rolling hills, vast plains and towering peaks to Hotel Las Torres, located at the park's entrance, where our journey into one of the world's most breathtaking natural reserves begins. LAS TORRES (B, L, D)

### Wednesday & Thursday, January 14 & 15 Torres del Paine National Park

By far, the most impressive sight in southern Chile is Torres del Paine National Park, known as the crown jewel of Patagonia. It was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1978. The dramatic mountain formations of towering rock, windswept pampas, ice fields, and glaciers, make it an impressive and unforgettable sight. We will explore the west side of the park one day and the east side of the park on another day. We look out for herds of guanacos and rheas, flamingos, condors, foxes, geese, and black-necked swans. Lakes and lagoons in hues of blues, greens, grays and ochres abound. The park is surrounded by impressive mountains including the famous Cuernos del Paine (Horns of Granite), twisted, snow-dusted pillars of grey granite that rise from the flat Patagonian plain. The spectacular Torres del Paine (Towers), giant granite peaks are even more spectacular. See Grey Glacier and lake with its blue iceberg, Salto Grande, a glacial waterfall set against majestic peaks, and many lakes. Hike or ride horses with an expert guide or simply relax in the surrounding wilderness. LAS TORRES (2B, 2L, 2D)









# Friday, January 16 Puerto Natales Airport / Santiago / Flights Back to U.S.

Today we will transfer to Puerto Natales Airport for flights to Santiago, and continuing on connecting flights back to the U.S. (B)

#### Saturday, January 17 Return to U.S.

Arrive back to the U.S.

Please note that the order of activities on the itinerary may change due to local conditions. Alterations in the schedule may occur to allocate time to enjoy visits and to take advantage of unexpected opportunities.

# Optional Pre-Trip Extension to Easter Island

#### December 31, 2025 – January 5, 2026

After overnighting in Santiago, depart the next morning for Easter Island (Rapa Nui). Located 2,600 miles west of Santiago in the South Pacific Ocean, this mysterious island has a visual impact few places in the world can equal. Hundreds of moais, tight-lipped basalt statues, are scattered throughout the island. The extension includes two nights at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Santiago and three nights at the Nayara Hangaroa on Easter Island, breakfast at Ritz-Carlton Hotel on return, all meals at the Nayara Hangaroa including wine or beer, daily excursions on Easter Island, except for the day of departure and all transfers. Cost: \$3,995 per person, double occupancy, \$6,849 per person, single occupancy. Rates are based on a minimum of 8 guests. A daily itinerary is available on request. Travelers must be enrolled on the main program to participate in the pre-tour extension. Airfare to Easter Island is not included. Approximate roundtrip airfare from Santiago to Easter Island is \$990, coach class and subject to increase.

# What to Expect

RITZ CARLTON SANTIAGO

This exclusive expedition is designed for Cornell University alumni and friends who are interested in learning about the superb natural areas of Patagonia and Chiloé Island, the history and culture of Santiago, and Easter Island (extension). This is a moderately active to active program. Excursions specifically tailors to a passengers' interests and fitness level. Hikes of different mileage and duration are offered. Excursions include trekking, birdwatching, horseback riding, boat navigation of lakes (southern Patagonia). The trip takes place during the Southern Hemisphere's summer, which brings sunny days. Typically, the weather is warm in Santiago (low 80s at noon) and cooler in Chiloé Island and Southern Patagonia (Torres del Paine, Punta Arenas) where temperatures average in the high 50s to low 60s during the day and can drop to the 40s at night. Easter Island (extension) ranges from 80-68°F. Sites in Southern Patagonia are usually cool in the early morning and late evening but can be sunny with variable temperatures during during the day. Winds, which can be strong, are frequent in the southern Patagonia area, and weather is unpredictable. Since some travel will be in remote areas, everyone must be flexible concerning time schedules, weather, and dust. To enjoy this trip, a spirit of adventure and anticipation and the desire to explore spectacular natural areas are musts. There are a couple of relatively long drives, which are necessary for the chance to explore the scenery of Patagonia. Travel is by regularly scheduled jet aircraft, ferry, and motor coach. There are no altitude issues on this trip.



#### Accommodations

**RITZ CARLTON SANTIAGO**: Nestled between the Santiago skyline, with its skyscrapers and neoclassical landmarks, and the snow-capped Andes Mountains, The Ritz-Carlton Santiago is a sophisticated retreat in the heart of El Golf, one of Santiago's most prestigious neighborhoods. Enjoy the impeccable service and unforgettable experiences such as the soothing spa at the hotel's rooftop Health and Fitness Center or exquisite dining at one of the four distinctive restaurants.

**HOTEL REFUGIA, CHILOÉ**: The beauty of this destination is as much in the landscape as it is in the island residents with their deep-rooted culture and timeless traditions. In true Tierra style, the lodge distinctive architecture is in-step with its breathtaking surroundings and comes complete with its own boat the "Williche" for navigating the inland waters. With only 24 cozy guest rooms, the hotel offers exceptional experiences and personalized service to its guests.

#### HOTEL WYNDHAM PETTRA PUERTO VARAS:

Overlooking the shores of Lake Llanquihue, the stately property of Cumbres Puerto Varas is a lovely base from which to explore the region. Situated in Puerto Varas, one of Chile's most desirable destinations, you have first-class dining options only moments away, as well as all of the services offered by a large town. Admire the spectacular vistas of the lake and Osorno Volcano beyond whilst cozying up to a wood fire in the communal areas. **CABO DE HORNOS**: An icon of Punta Arenas and Patagonia, the Cabo de Hornos Hotel has a rich history with a revived future as a result of extensive renovations which received a Chilean Bicentennial award. Observe the culture but dive into the food, with traditional dishes such as Patagonian lamb, Chilean fish and seafood or exquisite pastas. Just a few blocks from the coast, soak in the incredibly magical mix of sky and sea.



LAS TORRES: Hotel Las Torres blends naturally into the mountain backdrop, alluding to its important family story that dates to the 1970s. It is in the center of an Ecological Reserve, at the beginning of the most famous trail that will take you to the granite towers in the heart of Torres

del Paines National Park. Its 74 rooms are warmly decorated in wood with natural colors and designs that allude to the Patagonian culture and tradition, each featuring a different view of the beautiful landscapes that connect you with the serenity of this remote and magical place.



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#### Main Program Costs (per person)

Double Occupancy	\$11,890
Single Occupancy	\$14,585

### **Optional Pre-Trip Extension**

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Double Occu	pancy	

Bouble Occupality	 
Single Occupancy.	 \$6,849

#### Sample Coach International Airfare on Main Tour

Roundtrip JFK to Santiago ......\$1,087\* (Not included, quoted separately, subject to change).

#### Sample Airfare for On-Tour Flights

Santiago to Castro, Puerto Montt to Punta Arenas,
Puerto Natales to Santiago\$700
(Not included, quoted separately, subject to change)**

#### Sample Roundtrip Airfare for Extension

From Santiago to Easter Island	\$990
(Not included, quoted separately, subject to change)**	

\*AIRFARE: International airfare from New York JFK airport to Santiago, Chile and return is not included. Estimated airfare is approximately \$1,087 (coach class) as of January 2025. Airfares are subject to change. A recommended flight itinerary will be made available to registered passengers departing and returning from JFK.

Valerie Wilson Travel is the preferred provider for international airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 1-800-447-3560. For international flights you are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local agent, online booking site, or airline. Royal Adventures will assist and confirm all on-tour flight arrangements within Chile.

\*\*The cost of airfare for the three on-tour flights (Santiago to Castro, Puerto Montt to Punta Arenas, and Puerto Natales to Santiago) and the optional extension to Easter Island (Santiago to Easter Island roundtrip) will be confirmed by Royal Adventures in April 2025 (approximately 9 months before departure). The estimated cost is approximately \$700 per person for the main tour and \$990 for the Easter Island pre-tour based on current costs, coach class. The cost of on-tour airfare is not included in the main tour price or pre-tour price to Easter Island and will be billed to registered participants separately as applicable in the final invoice.

#### Program Cost Includes

All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • Wine with welcome dinner • Open bar and Chilean wine with dinners at the Hotel Refugia, Chiloé and Las Torres hotels (premium liquors and wines excluded) • All activities per itinerary • Wine tasting and three-course lunch at Kingston Winery • Professional English-speaking guides and Tour Director throughout • Transportation by private motor coach and local ferry • Airport transfers for group flights • Tips to local guides and drivers • Service charges and taxes • Baggage handling • Predeparture information • Coordination and administration

## Program Cost Does Not Include

U.S. domestic and international airfare (quoted separately) • Three on-tour flights (Santiago to Castro, Puerto Montt to Punta Arenas, and Puerto Natales to Santiago) (quoted separately)\*\* • Airfare on the pre-tour to Easter Island (quoted separately)\*\* Excess baggage charges
Meals not specified in the itinerary Personal items such as laundry, email, fax, or telephone calls • Alcoholic beverages except where wine and beer are included with meals or there is an open bar (excluding premium wines and beverages) • Dishes or beverages not included with meals • Room service • Fly or sport fishing • Spa treatments • Passport and/or visa fees • Private transfers • Medical expenses • COVID testing or quarantine expenses • Travel, evacuation, and personal insurance • Optional extensions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Airport taxes and/or security fees • Fuel surcharges • Tip to the Tour Director is not included, and is at the passengers' discretion

## Questions

Please call or email Royal Adventures at (925) 820-6260 or 1-800-453-4754 or info@royaladventures.com

### Terms & Conditions

**RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT** A \$1,000 deposit is required per person to reserve a space on this program, plus \$200 per person for the optional pre-trip extension to Easter Island, if applicable. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. An interim deposit of \$1,500 per person is due six months prior to departure (July 5, 2025). Final payment is due September 5, 2025, payable by check only to "Royal Adventures". Participants will receive an invoice directly from Royal Adventures for all subsequent payments after the initial deposit. CST #2009579-40.



**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS** Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by the tour operator with a copy to CAU from the participant. • Cancellations received within 14 days of booking: full refund. After 14 days, initial deposits are non-refundable. • On July 5, 2025, both the \$1,000 per person initial deposit and the \$1,500 per person interim payment become nonrefundable, regardless of the booking date. • Cancellations received after September 5, 2025, are subject to 100% forfeiture of all deposits and payments, regardless of booking date. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE** We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance as the cancellation penalty in this brochure will apply. Trip cancellation insurance can be purchased through our recommended provider-Travel Insured International, CLICK HERE to get a quote or call 1-800-243-3174 and mention Royal Adventures #53140. Most insurance plans need to be purchased within 14 days of paying the initial deposit in order to waive pre-existing medical conditions as well as to purchase "Cancel for Any Reason" insurance.

**RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY RELEASE STATEMENT** Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility and Liability Release will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon written request. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a responsibility statement and a liability release, assumption of risk, hold-harmless agreement with a binding arbitration clause.

**CORNELL TRAVEL POLICY** While Cornell is pleased to facilitate travel opportunities for its alumni and friends with tour operators that specialize in high-quality educational travel, please be aware that Cornell does not conduct, manage, or operate these travel experiences, or act as an agent for travelers interested in tours. Tour operators and travelers are responsible for making their own safety decisions concerning this travel, and, as a facilitator between travelers and the tour operators with whom travelers make arrangements for completing travel, Cornell's role and liability are strictly limited. Specific tour operators and national health and safety protocols will apply to each trip, and travelers should review all protocols and trip terms and conditions, including terms and conditions regarding cancellations, refunds, health and safety, and insurance before making a reservation. Cornell is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses, expenses, damages, or injuries resulting from travel.

#### Reservation Form CAU Education Adventures

# **CHILE** *Magical Chiloé* & *Patagonia* **JANUARY** 5–17, 2026

For the ease of registering online, please visit royaladventures.intellibook.co/site/#/ cau-patagonia-26.

If you prefer to mail your registration, please complete the form below and return it to Royal Adventures with deposit check (if applicable) **payable to** "*Royal Adventures*" to:

#### ROYAL ADVENTURES 9 CROW CANYON COURT, STE 205 • SAN RAMON, CA 94583

Enclosed is my deposit of \$1,000 per person, plus \$200 for the Easter Island pre-trip extension, if applicable, to hold \_\_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on *Chile: Magical Chiloé & Patagonia*,

departing January 5, 2026, with Cornell's Adult University. An interim deposit of \$1,500 per person is due six months prior to departure (July 5, 2025). Final payment is due September 5, 2025. The interim deposit and final payment are payable by check only to "Royal Adventures."

NAME AS ON PASSPORT	DOB
NAME AS ON PASSPORT	DOB
ADDRESS	
CITY STATE ZIP	
HOME PHONE	OFFICE PHONE
FAX	E-MAIL

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

O Double (1 BED) O Double (2 BEDS) O Single (limited availability) O I will share accommodations with:

#### **OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR EXTENSION**

 $\bigcirc$  I/We wish to join the Easter Island pre-tour optional extension

#### **PAYMENT OPTIONS**

O Pay by check made payable to "Royal Adventures"

#### CARD #

I/We have carefully read the Terms & Conditions sections of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

SIGNATURE

DATE

EXP. DATE SEC CODE

SIGNATURE

# **CHILE** Magical Chiloé & Patagonia

# Highlights

**EXPLORE SANTIAGO'S ICONIC LANDMARKS**—Discover the historic charm and modern vibrancy of Santiago.

**DISCOVER CHILOÉ ISLAND**— Experience the unique culture and natural beauty of Chiloé with its colorful stilt houses, UNESCO-listed churches, and lush landscapes.

#### WINE TASTING IN CASABLANCA

**VALLEY**—Enjoy a day in Chile's premier wine region, where you'll savor fine wines paired with local cuisine in stunning vineyard settings.

VISIT AN AUTHENTIC FAMILY RANCH—Enjoy a traditional Patagonian barbecue and watch sheep shearing activities in the pampas.

#### **MAJESTIC TORRES DEL PAINE**

Spend three nights in Torres del Paine National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and home to towering granite spires, glaciers, and lakes, where you'll encounter diverse wildlife like guanacos, flamingos, and condors.

TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PAI

To reserve your space, contact CAU partner, Royal Adventures by PHONE: **800-453-4754** *OR* EMAIL: **INFO@ROYALADVENTURES.COM** 

