

## **Chile Lakes and Glaciers** **9days/8nights**

### ***Day 1: Arrival Santiago***

Arriving into Santiago you will be amazed on the impressive high-rise architecture and modern city life. Santiago is located in the center of the Chile and is a main gateway to many South American attractions. This Capital City of Chile is full of culture, with many Historical Colonial Buildings and has a great character, it is home to over 5million people which means you will find everything you need in this modern day city. Your hotel we have selected for your stay are centrally located and close to some fantastic Chilean cuisine, don't forget to try out the wine from this region, it is world famous.

### ***Day 2: Santiago half day tour***

The best way to get your bearings in any city is to do a half day city tour; we have included a morning city tour of Santiago to get you better acquainted with Chili's capital. The first stop of this tour included visiting the Bernardo O Higgins Avenue running east west and dividing the city into two main parts; the Providencia District and its commercial center Balmaceda Park, San Cristobal hill and the Metropolitan Park, the Forestal Park. You will also come across the fine art museum, Plaza de Armas, the city's main square with cathedral and the town hall. We then continue down to the oldest part of the town with beautiful mansions all built in different styles, upon returning to your hotel we show you the exclusive Union Club, the National Library and the central Santa Lucia hill.

### ***Day 3: Santiago to Punta Arenas***

After breakfast your guide will transfer you to the airport for your flight to Punta Arenas (flight not included) When you fly into Patagonia you are instantly rewarded with the sheer beauty of this region, from snowcapped mountain ranges, ice field, lakes and rivers are only a few elements of this stunning backdrop. Once you have landed you are transferred to your hotel. Your city tour of Punta Arenas includes passing the Muñoz Gamero Square to continue to the Maggiorino Borgatello Museum which is home to a permanent and comprehensive exhibit on the local indigenous population. Later on we visit the Patagonian Institute (open-air museum) and the botanical garden, which features examples of the region's sparse vegetation. After this we have saved the best till last with traveling up the top of the hill known as the "Cerro de la Cruz," for the most spectacular

view of the city backed by the Strait of Magellan. After this view you are taken back your hotel for the remainder of the evening at leisure. [B]

#### ***Day 4: Punta Arenas to Puerto Natales***

It's an early start today as you check out of your hotel and transfer from Punta Arenas to Puerto Natales. Once you arrive into Puerto Natales and have checked into your hotel we have included another half day tour to get your better acquainted with this area.

This afternoon we have included a half day tour to Milodon Cave this is where the remains of a prehistoric animal were found in the last century. The impressive Andean Massif whose peaks impress all those who visit the park, is surrounded by glaciers such as the Grey glacier, waterfalls, lakes and lagoons such as Pehoe which together with a wide variety of flora and fauna make this one of the best known places in the world for its rich natural beauty. Upon arrival back to your hotel you have the remainder of the evening at leisure. [B]

#### ***Day 5: Puerto Natales to Torres del Paine***

This morning you will be transferred from Puerto Natales to Torres del Paine which is approximately 115kms. As you have had two on the go days once you arrive at your hotel and have checked in the remainder of the day is at leisure which gives you the chance to soak up the atmosphere Patagonia has to offer and prepare for tomorrows adventure. [B]

#### ***Day 6: Torres Del Paine***

Torres del Paine is with no doubt one of the most spectacular National Parks in the country and is appointed by UNESCO as a world Biosphere Reserve in 1978 as it has a huge variety of plants and animals in the area. To show you just how magical this area is we have included a full day tour of Torres del Paine, you will be able to admire the beauty of the scenery reflected on the colorful water of Figueroa and Sarmiento Lakes and the typical mountains and heights of the Paine Mountain range formed by Paine Towers, Big Paine, Almirante Nieto Mountain, Indian Head and others. Visit the Waterfalls such as big waterfalls and Paine River, after this we arrive at Hosteria Pehoé located on an island in the middle of the Lake Pehoé , we have our lunch stop (box lunch). Then this afternoon we take an excursion to the Grey lake area, visiting a small waterfall, Paine River, Toro Lake, Sarmiento and Grey Rivers. Once at Grey Lake you will be able to admire huge blocks of ice floating everywhere. These blocks detach from the glacier. The colors of the floating ice blocks will provide the masterly touch to the beautiful scenery created by

nature. Once you have returned back to your hotel the remainder of the evening is at your own leisure. [B,L]

### ***Day 7: Torres Del Paine to El Calafate***

This morning your journey continues over to Argentina with a private transfer to El Calafate. This journey is about 3.5hours hence why we have used a private transfer to make it more comfortable to you and so you can stop as many times as you want along the way (there are some great picture opportunities en route to El Calafate). Once you arrive into El Calafate you will have the remainder of the day at leisure. This city is renowned for the Moreno glacier (which you will see on day6). But this town is has some breath-taking scenery, cultural settings and a great area to have a wonder around and take in the scenery. [B]

### ***Day 8: El Calafate & Perito Moreno Glacier***

The Perito Moreno glacier is the most fascinating glacier you will ever come across, we have included a full day tour which takes you out to this enormous glacier where you can just stand meters away and hear the ice cracking – hopefully you will be able to see the ice crack and a section of the ice shelf fall down into the water. Travelling down to the Perito Moreno glacier we travel into the Patagonian range bordering the southern arm of the Argentinean lake, covering a distance of 80km between El Calafate and the Glacier. We then start traveling down the catwalks and over the slopes of th Mt Buenos Airea to admire is natural wonder. We return to El Calafate late in the afternoon where you can enjoy your last night in El Calafate at your own leisure. [B]

### ***Day 9: Depart El Calafate***

After breakfast your journey through the Chilian landscape concludes with a departure transfer to the airport.