Remote and largely inaccessible, Patagonia is the essence of wildness—a maze of channels and islands. Venture deep into Chile’s glorious fjords past incandescent icebergs and massive glaciers. From the “land of fire,” Tierra del Fuego, to the jagged spires of Torres del Paine National Park, experience Patagonia at close range aboard National Geographic Orion. And, thanks to our special access, we’ll enjoy the privilege of visiting the far-off, stunningly beautiful natural parklands of Karukinka and Yendegaia.

OCT 27-28: U.S./Santiago, Chile
Depart on an overnight flight to Santiago, Chile. We check in to our centrally located hotel, and have the morning to relax. Santiago is nearly surrounded by the Andes, which form an inspiring backdrop to our afternoon guided overview of this vibrant city. We explore the Plaza de Armas, the main square, and nearby Presidential Palace, enjoying wonderful views from the many hills that dot the city. (Oct. 28: L)

OCT 29: Puerto Natales
Today we fly from Santiago to the outpost of Puerto Natales and check in to our outstanding hotel, the Singular, located on Última Esperanza (Last Hope) Sound. The sound got its name when 16th-century explorers tried and failed to find a route to the Pacific here. The hotel is a part of local history—a former sheep-processing plant converted to luxury hotel. This afternoon, we will enjoy a short exploration of the town, including a visit to the small but excellent Municipal Historical Museum, with exhibits on the region’s Native Americans and on its settler past. We have dinner at our hotel. (B,L,D)

OCT 30-NOV 1: Torres del Paine National Park
We drive to Torres del Paine National Park, stopping at Milodón Cave, where the remains of an extinct giant sloth were discovered. Illuminating displays show the history of human habitation and wildlife of the region. We continue to monumental Torres del Paine, a UNESCO Biosphere reserve and a place of superlatives. The landscape is big, wide and sprawling, with razor-backed ridges, Andean condors, guanacos, foxes and rheas. Regardless of where you are, the Paine massif draws

2017 Departure Dates:
Oct 27
Advance Payment:
$1,500
Sample Airfares:
Economy:.......................from $1,300
Business:.......................from $4,100
Charter:.......................from $805
Airfares are subject to change
Cost Includes:
One hotel night in Santiago; one hotel night in Puerto Natales; three hotel nights in Torres del Paine; shipboard accommodations; meals indicated; services of Lindblad Expeditions’ Leader, expedition staff and expert guides; entrance fees; all port charges and service.
your eye with its jagged peaks, including the famous "Horns" and the three towers for which the park is named. These granite mountains are topped with a thick layer of dark slate. Chileans themselves dream of visiting this magnificent park, and it holds a special place in their hearts as a symbol of wilderness. During our days here, we'll discover one of the most spectacular and wildlife-rich areas in the Americas, covering 450,000 acres of glaciers, forests and grasslands, rivers and colorful lakes and lagoons. You'll be able to choose among a variety of excursions each day, ranging from a challenging hike to the base of the towers, to a shorter walk among guanaco herds to the edge of a lake, to a scenic drive to a waterfall and the "Blue Lagoon", with views of the towers. Or ride horseback if you wish, in this most inspiring of landscapes. You'll leave here with the feeling you've really experienced an adventure. Our accommodations are at the outstanding Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa, one of National Geographic's Unique Lodges of the World, where your room will have views of Torres del Paine's imposing central massif. (B,L,D)

NOV 2: Torres del Paine National Park/Puerto Natales/Embark

We have a final morning to explore Torres del Paine. We then drive to Puerto Natales, where we embark National Geographic Orion. (B,L,D)

NOV 3: Kirke Narrows & Exploring the Chilean Fjords

Be on deck to look for condors and other wildlife on our way out of Puerto Natales, as our ship transits the narrow sliver of water known as the Kirke Narrows-always a challenge to navigate because of the powerful currents that flow through its 650-foot wide pinch point. Today and during the following days you will be treated to the spectacular features of an active glaciated landscape with hanging valleys and tributary glaciers. This region was navigated by Ferdinand Magellan’s expedition and it took most of November 1520 for his ships to find a way through the maze of channels that lie between the continental mainland and Tierra del Fuego to the south. Among our many possibilities are exploring Estero las Montañas, with a chance to go for an adventurous walk to a lake through beautiful muskeg and forest, with cypress trees coated with many species of lichens; and Bahía Ainsworth in Seno Almirantazgo, where we may go out by Zodiac and kayak and look for elephant seals. (B,L,D)

NOV 4: Tierra del Fuego, Chile: Karukinka Natural Park

Tierra del Fuego is one of Patagonia’s crown jewels. We visit its newest and largest protected area: Karukinka Natural Park. Established in 2004 through a gift from Goldman Sachs, Karukinka is one of the largest donations ever made for conservation. We’re thrilled to have special permission from the Wildlife Conservation Society to visit this private reserve, which spans 1,160 square miles and harbors endangered culpeo fox, Andean condors, albatross, grebes, petrels, fulmars, shearwaters and many other kinds of wildlife. We may explore Jackson Bay, backed by a skyline of rugged mountains and look for wildlife including black-browed albatross that nest on one of the nearby small islands. We may walk a trail to a lovely waterfall and look for elephant seals resting on not only the beach but also high in the grass meadows and even in the small river draining the valley inland. (B,L,D)

NOV 5: The Chilean Fjords, Beagle Channel & Yendegaia

We’ll explore more stunning wilderness as we see the fjords and glaciers of the region by Zodiac, kayak and on foot. A vast area of soaring, snowcapped mountains, gigantic glaciers, thousands of verdant islands, serene lakes, and waterfalls—the archipelago is scarcely touched by man. Take Zodiacs out to explore these protected waters and rugged shores, the blue and white of ice contrasting with greens of the forest highlighted by splashes of late-season flowering plants. Look for the Andean condors, albatrosses, grebes, petrels, fulmars, shearwaters and many

Not Included:

Immigration fees, air transportation; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, emails, laundry, voyage DVD, etc. Gratuities to ship’s crew at your discretion.
other birds that inhabit this otherworldly realm. Then we sail the Beagle Channel to Yendegaia, a stunning wilderness that covers 95,000 acres on Tierra del Fuego. This newly established national park was formerly a private reserve. It has beech forests, mountains and wild rivers. (B,L,D)

NOV 6: Cape Horn

Today we visit Cape Horn, near the southernmost tip of the South American continent, named in 1616 for the Dutch town of Hoorn. These waters are famously difficult to navigate, and over the centuries have been the graveyard of many ships—which before the opening of the Panama Canal had to round the Cape to sail between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Of course, we'll use our modern equipment to explore safely. Weather permitting, we'll take our Zodiaks ashore and walk to the top of the hill for panoramic views and to see the memorial placed there in 1992, showing an albatross in silhouette. (B,L,D)

NOV 7-8: Isla de Los Estados (Staten Island), Argentina

We have been given special permission to visit extraordinary Staten Island, and National Geographic Orion will be one of the only expedition ships ever allowed here. It’s a place of superlatives, barely touched in recent decades and visited primarily by a few scientists and those who man the tiny naval observatory. The island was named by Dutch explorers in 1615. Its mountainous, forested landscapes and rugged fjords are beautiful, and we'll find a great deal of interest here. Our exact schedule will remain flexible to take best advantage of conditions. We'll see colonies of southern rockhopper and Magellanic penguins, many other water birds, and large assemblages of fur seals and sea lions. We'll also look for otters on our landings ashore, and we'll see the 1884 San Juan de Salvamento “lighthouse at the end of the world,” which inspired Jules Verne’s novel by the same name, along with the ruins of a penal colony, and perhaps an archaeological site occupied 1,500 years ago by Native Americans. There will be chances to walk in the southern beech forests. These days are bound to stand out as a unique chance to explore a very remote place. Read Eric Guth’s account from our inaugural 2015 visit at www.expeditions.com/si_first. (B,L,D)

NOV 9-10: Ushuaia/Disembark/Santiago/U.S.

Disembark in Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world. Take a charter flight to Santiago and connect to your overnight flight home. (Nov. 9: B,L)

National Geographic Orion

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COST PER PERSON SINGLE OCCUPANCY

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(1) Travel Protection Plan

We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or lost of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. and Canadian residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date. Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased. Learn more about our Travel Protection “Plus” Plan: http://www.expeditions.com/TravelProtection/

(2) Cancellation Plan

Review our cancellation plan:

http://www.expeditions.com/reservations/cancellation-policy/