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PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT ESCAPE

**CME, CULTURAL, ECOLOGICAL & WINE TOUR OF  
CHILE & ARGENTINA (including 3 night Patagonia Cruise)**

**(OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO THE ATACAMA DESERT)**

January 25 – February 10 2012 (14 days)

**The Organizers...**

**Dr. Peter Bloch >**

**Dr Peter Bloch** is more than familiar with South America and it's culture having lived in Chile for 20 years, starting medical school there, but completing his training at Western. He has been a Family Physician in Oakville since 1976 and is an avid world traveller, including his spirited hosting of several extremely successful CME cultural and ecological tours with doctors-on-tour since 2005 including Chile, Argentina, Vietnam & Cambodia, Ecuador & The Galapagos, Northern India, Kenya & Tanzania, Brazil and Spain.

**doctors-on-tour.ca >**

doctors-on-tour.ca is a specialist division of on-tour.ca, a 100% Canadian owned and operated meeting management and group travel organization, which has developed a niche working with health care professionals, either through the pharmaceutical companies or on a direct basis with physicians, to deliver a combination of vacation and education. More information, including recent testimonials, about the company can be found at [www.doctors-on-tour.ca](http://www.doctors-on-tour.ca) The company is a licensed retail travel organization under The Travel Industry Act of Ontario thereby affording complete protection of all monies paid prior to departure. (TICO registration no. 50009110). The company can be contacted at 416-231-8466 or [info@doctors-on-tour.ca](mailto:info@doctors-on-tour.ca)

## The Destinations... Highlights of Chile & Argentina

**Argentina** - the name comes from the Latin *argentum* which means silver and its origin goes back to the voyages made by the first Spanish "conquistadores" to the Río de La Plata. The shipwrecked survivors of the expedition mounted by Juan Díaz de Solís discovered Indians in the region who presented them with silver objects around 1524. The Spanish named it the Silver River (Río de la Plata) and, in 1853, The National Constitution formally adopted the name "República Argentina".

It is a country of so much adventure and raw natural beauty. It boasts the Western hemispheres highest peaks at over 7,000m, the painted deserts of the northern Andes with their colonial cities, the splendid desolation of Patagonia, including the thunderous, Perito Moreno Glacier and the magnificent scenery of Tierra del Fuego, which hosts Ushuaia, at the tip of the southern world and which is the gateway to exploration cruises around Cape Horn and through the Beagle Channel.

And then there are the seductive tango halls and feisty inhabitants of Argentina's fashionable capital, **Buenos Aires**, the "Paris of South America". An elegant capital with a European-flavored sophistication, and a passionate culture, this contemporary city is bursting with energy, its streets lined with bustling parillas (grill restaurants) and colorful curios, while the chimes of skilled musicians flow from street corners and nightspots alike.

Experience the local people and their culture - Argentines have a vivacious and infectious lust for life, which has survived despite a dark period of military dictatorship and several economic crises and their passion shines through in Argentina's three greatest loves: football, food and fine wine.

More information can be found at -

- <http://www.argentina.travel/en> - Secretary of Tourism
- <http://www.turismo.gov.ar/eng/menu.htm> - Ministry of Tourism

The world's longest country (being 4,400km long but only 180km wide), nestled between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, **Chile** is a country of contrasts and great beauty, that offers the discerning traveler spectacular scenery and the hospitality of warm, well educated and sophisticated local people.

There are few destinations on the planet that offer such a contrast. In the North are desert lands, abandoned villages full of history and oases and cultural centres such as San Pedro de **Atacama**. In the central valleys, cosmopolitan **Santiago**, the capital, hosts an attractive mix of historic buildings and modern amenities and is the gateway to discover the nearby Andes Mountains, the famous Chilean wines historic colonial wineries of the Maipo and Casablanca Valleys the central coast with attractive beaches and fashionable towns known for their history and tradition, such as **Valparaíso and Vina del Mar**. Meanwhile to the south, Chile is a land of formidable nature with rich ecological settings and many National Parks (including the spectacular **Torres del Paine**, considered by many to be one of nature's finest creations), showcasing the lakes and islands, forests and fjords and mountains and glaciers extending south to Cape Horn.

More information can be found at -

- <http://turismochile.travel/index.php?lang=eng>

And to connect these two South American neighbours, what better way than by cruise on a well equipped but intimate expedition cruise ship – the recently commissioned **Stella Australis** of Cruceros Australis cruiseslines...

- [www.australis.com](http://www.australis.com)

## The detailed itinerary...

### Day 1 – Jan 25, 2012 - Depart Toronto for Buenos Aries, Argentina

Depart Toronto in the evening, arriving in Buenos Aries the next day

### Day 2 – Jan 26 – Arrive Buenos Aries, Argentina (D)



**Buenos Aries**, the capital of Argentina, is the most cosmopolitan city in South America, with over 14 million inhabitants and a nickname of the “Paris of the Americas”. It is a charming city with a strong influence of the most important European cities. Beautiful walks, avenues and parks, monumental buildings, pavement cafes, museums and churches gathered in 26 districts, each with a personality of its own, give her an undeniable cosmopolitan air.

The aristocratic Northern quarter resembles the most elegant areas in Paris; Avenida de Mayo and its innumerable coffee houses revive the flavor of Madrid’s Gran Via; the shady Belgrano streets recall the charm of the distinguished London’s suburbs; Naples seems to be present in the noisy and colored La Boca quarter.

The city began as a centre for contraband, as the Portuguese, English and French took advantage of the lack of a strong Spanish presence in the area around the Rio de la Plata in the 17th Century. However, when the Spanish realised the competition it was facing for control of the region, they declared the area of what is now Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Bolivia a viceroyalty, and made Buenos Aires the capital. With this new financial, judicial and military role, the city began its transformation into a major cosmopolitan city. The peak of this was in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, when Buenos Aires was one of the richest cities in the world as its leaders provided the enterprise and the many hundreds of thousands of European immigrants provided the labour to fuel the booming export led economy. Political and economic turmoil has seen the city lose some of its power during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, but the legacy of its rich past remains visible in all corners of the city.

Arrive Buenos Aries mid afternoon by international flight. You will be met on arrival by your local guide and will be transferred to your hotel. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.





**Day 3 – Jan 27 – Buenos Aires (B, L)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

**Physicians** - Morning visit to the **British Hospital**

[www.hospitalbritanico.org.ar/web/en](http://www.hospitalbritanico.org.ar/web/en)

to review the facility and meet with local physicians.

**Non-physicians** will commence a **city tour of Buenos Aires** starting in the northern area of the city past San Martin Square towards the fashionable Palermo Chico district and Palermo Park with its jacaranda and palo borracho trees continuing on to the elegant Recoleta district to visit Recoleta Cemetery where the famous are laid to rest (including Eva Peron).



After meeting up for lunch in a local restaurant, everybody will continue to explore the sights of this fascinating city. Drive down 9 de Julio Ave. the widest in the world, past the famous Colon Opera house, the Obelisk commemorating the first founding of the city in 1536 to get to Plaza de Mayo (May Square), and the buildings surrounding it: Government House, Metropolitan Cathedral with the Mausoleum of General San Martin, Argentina's greatest national hero and the Cabildo, the colonia town hall built in 1751. The tour finishes in La Boca, an area greatly influenced by the Italian immigrants who settled there, and the brightly painted houses of 'Caminito' street

Evening at leisure, Overnight at the hotel.

**Day 4 – Jan 28 – Buenos Aires (B, L, D)**



Breakfast at the hotel.

Embark on a full day **Tigre and Delta tour** through the elegant northern riverside suburbs of Vicente Lopez, Olivos, where the President's Residence is located, San Isidro with its gothic Cathedral and San Fernando to Tigre, a charming city with many rowing, canoeing and yacht clubs, summer residences, and restaurants by the riverside. After lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy a private cruise aboard a typical motor boat along the Parana River Delta. The Delta is 220 square kilometres in size and small islands and numerous streams are spread throughout the area. The nearby Lujan, Sarmiento, Tigre and San Antonio rivers are all part of the voyage. The tour returns along the Panamericana Highway.

In the evening, experience one of the city's most famous activities – the **Tango**. At a unique venue, learn this sensual and captivating dance for yourself in a one hour lesson before sitting down to a traditional Argentine dinner while you enjoy a spectacular floor show sketching the history of popular Argentina music. In this musical extravaganza, the main protagonist is the Tango, where the roots of Argentine culture are strengthened, enhanced by the decoration and special ambience.

Overnight at the hotel.



**Day 5 – Jan 29 – Buenos Aries – El Calafate (B)**



***El Calafate** is situated on the southern shore on Lago Argentino (Argentine Lake). This remote region of Argentina is referred to as “Los Glaciares” (the glaciers) or the lake region as much of it is covered by a vast ice sheet over 200 miles long and up to 40 miles wide. In 1973, the National Park Los Glaciares was created in order to preserve this vast glacial area. It has also given “Humanity Inheritance” status by UNESCO. Its main features are towering mountains, clear lakes, and the massive glaciers descending from the Andes into icy arms on the western edges of the lakes. About half of the Lago Argentino lies within the boundary of Parque Nacional Los Glaciares which borders Chile at the Andean crest. The lake was first discovered in 1873, and is the southernmost of the Park’s four huge lakes produced by Plietoce glaciation. Surrounded by beautiful ancient forest and dazzling glaciers, it covers 937 square miles, including its many fjords.*

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to the domestic airport for your morning flight to El Calafate. You will be met on arrival by your local guide and will be transferred to your hotel. In the afternoon, visit the **Glacarium Museum**.

<http://www.glacarium.com/>

The state-of-the-art facility, which cost US\$4 million to design and build, structurally resembles a glacier and is the work of architects Pablo Güiraldes, Javier Fernández and Santiago Cordeyro. It is dominated by three two-storey towers which bend in on themselves at crooked angles, as if about to buckle and snap under some enormous but invisible pressure – as indeed the towering ice pinnacles on a real-life glacier eventually do. Inside, the museum is divided into several discrete spaces, each crammed with impressive multimedia exhibits by noted Argentinian designer Hector Barra. Through photographs, projections, models and even a 3D movie, the visitor learns about the what, why, where and whither of glaciers.

**Physicians** will also visit the **El Calafate Hospital**

Evening at leisure, Overnight at the hotel.

**Day 6 – Jan 30 – El Calafate (B, L)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

This morning, visit the spectacular **Perito Moreno Glaciar**. Drive through the National Park to the Brazo Rico coast of the Argentine Lake and the permanently advancing Moreno Glacier, the most breathtaking of all the glaciers in the park, and Canal de Los Tempanos, into which huge blocks of ice collapse, sometimes creating a dam. If you are fortunate to see the ice actually collapse, the sounds of this occurrence are as amazing as the visuals, as massive chunks crack off, explode into smaller bits, and crash into the Lake, causing a huge, rolling wake. At times, the Canal is completely blocked by this dam of ice, and under the pressure of its weight, the dam collapses in an explosion of ice and water. Your adventure will also include a catamaran cruise along the south face of the glacier where you should be able to approach to a distance of only 300 meters from this amazing ice river. Lunch will be provided at a local restaurant.

Evening at leisure, Overnight at the hotel.

Day 7 – Jan 31 – El Calafate - Ushuai (B, L)



*Tierra del Fuego (Land of Fire) lies at the very southern tip of the South American continent. Beyond it there is only the icy mass of Antarctica. The story goes that the area got its name from early European explorers, who when passing by on ships, en route to riches further west, could see the landscape dotted with the campfires of the islands' original inhabitants. The very name, Tierra del Fuego, evokes feelings of distance, fear of the elements, isolation, loneliness, although now this has changed, as it is now a popular destination for travelers, that usually enter by **Ushuaia**, the capital of the territory and southernmost city in the world. Its first inhabitants, the yamana, called it "the inside door to the west". Ushuaia is situated beside the Beagle Channel and surrounded by the Martial Range. This city shows a unique landscape in Argentina, a combination of mountains, sea, glaciers and forest. From the shore and looking southwards it's possible to have a wonderful view of the bay, the peninsula, the Beagle Channel and Navarino and Hoste Islands. This city has a good shopping center and is characterized by its typical and colorful houses. Explore some restaurants to try the excellent spider crabs and the lamb B.B.Q. or stroll around the old picturesque harbour.*

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Ushuaia. You will be met on arrival by your local guide and transferred to your hotel.

In the afternoon discover the **Lapataia National Park**. Close to Ushuaia, the park was created in 1960 and became the southernmost preserved area in Argentina. The topography is extremely rough - a succession of craggy mountains, rivers valleys and numerous lakes. There are six species of trees and a large variety of flowers (yellow violets; white, green and yellow orchids; seapinks). You will also see a large variety of birds as well as silver fox, upland geese, rabbit, muskrat, beaver, salmon, trout, tailed hake and sardines. On the shores there are crabs, sea snails and mussels.



Your tour will include the "**End of the World**" train ride. One of only two narrow-gauge tracks left in Argentina, the F.A.F. (Ferrocarril Austral Fueguino), is impressive not only for its style but for its links to the history of Ushuaia as it used to ferry prisoners from the island's prison stronghold into the national park to fell and chop trees. The train consists of steam locomotives, and coaches, comfortably heated and fitted with large windows. It leaves from Estación del Fin del Mundo (End of the World Station), 8 km West of Ushuaia, and steams slowly along the Pipo Valley and its Ensenada Bay until it reaches the Macarena Waterfalls. The train continues into the National Park with its stunning views of Mount Susana, the Martial Glacier, the Beagle Channel and Redonda Island. Your ride ends at the Estación del Parque (Park Station) where a visit to the F.A.F. workshops, the small museum and a display of historical photographs should not be missed.

Evening at leisure, Overnight at the hotel.



**Day 8 – Feb 1 - Ushuaia – Patagonia Cruise (Stella Australis) (B, D)**



Breakfast at the hotel.

Free time to explore the town of Ushuaia before being transferred to the pier to board the Stella Australis for the next component of your tour.

Cruise ship boarding late afternoon where the captain and crew give a welcome cocktail reception on board. Immediately afterward, the ship will set sail for “the uttermost part of the earth.” Sail through 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.

**Day 9 – Feb 2 (B, L, D) – Patagonia Cruise (Stella Australis) – Cape Horn / Wulaia Bay**



Sail through the Murray Channel and Nassau Bay to reach Cape Horn National Park, and disembark (weather permitting). The mythical Cape Horn was discovered in 1616, and it is a sheer, 425-meter (1,394-foot) high rocky promontory. For many years it was an important navigation route between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, and it is known as the “End of the Earth”. The park was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in June 2005. In the afternoon, go ashore at 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 unique native vegetation to a panoramic look-out point.

**Day 10 – Feb 3 (B,L,D) - Patagonia Cruise (Stella Australis) – Magdalena Channel / Aguilá Glacier**



Sail through the Brecknock, Ocasión, Cockburn, and Magdalena Channels to enter the spectacular Agostini Fjord in the heart of the Darwin Cordillera, in Tierra del Fuego. Here you can see the glaciers flowing down the mountainside, often all the way to the sea. In the afternoon, head to the Águila Glacier and enjoy a leisurely walk on the shore of a lagoon surrounded by mountains until reaching the base of the glacier. Learn about Patagonia's cold rainforest and the forces that moulded the landscape.

**Day 11 – Feb 4 – Patagonia Cruise (Stella Australis) – Punta Arenas - Puerto Natales (B)**



Early in the morning, go ashore on Magdalena Island (weather permitting). Located in the Strait of Magellan, it was an essential source of supplies for navigators and explorers in the past. The island is inhabited by an immense colony of Magellanic Penguins which can be sighted on the walk to a lighthouse, which guides ships on their way through the strait. After this, the ship to Punta Arenas, disembarking late morning.

Your cruise comes to an end in Punta Arenas where you will disembark the ship late morning and be met by your local Chilean tour escort.

*Lying 3,090 km from Santiago, **Punta Arenas** is the most southern city in Chile. It was founded in 1848 as a military fort to reinforce the Chilean claim to sovereignty over the Magellan Straits and to house the settlers of Fuerte Bulnes. The consolidation of the town took place between 1875 and 1885, after it had been destroyed in various mutinies. From this period the city became dedicated to stock-raising, attracting successive waves of immigrants. In 1945 deposits of oil were discovered, which changed the face of the city as it became the administrative and residential center for the personnel working in oil extraction. Today, it is an important center for the exportation of wool, hides, mutton and wood and there are sawmills, tanneries and facilities for freezing meat and canning fish.*



There will be a short city tour before heading north proceeding through the endless Patagonian steppes, crossing trout-filled rivers and passing beech tree forests and numerous sheep ranches en route to Puerto Natales.

Check in to your hotel and evening at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.



**Day 12 – Feb 5 – Puerto Natales (Torres del Paine National Park) (B, L)**

Located on the shore of the Seno Última Esperanza, **Puerto Natales** lies close to the Riesco mountain range and is the center of administrative and commercial services for the intense cattle ranching activity in the province. It was founded in 1911 and is the gateway for Torres del Paine National Park, the Cueva del Milodón or the glaciers of the Campo de Hielo Sur.

Comprising 242,242 hectares, **Torres del Paine National Park** was created in 1959 and declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1978. It is located between the Andes and the Patagonian Steppe.

There are four quite different types of flora in the park: the Pre-Andean scrub, which is adapted to cold and drought and is found primarily on the shores of Lago Sarmiento and Salto Grande; the Deciduous Magellanic Forest, composed mainly of lenga; the Magellanic Tundra, made up basically of mosses; and the High Altitude Desert, which has small shrubs that gradually peter out as the altitude increases. The most famous feature of the park, Cuernos del Paine are known world wide for their magnificent appearance: these gigantic rocky masses can be seen from the trails that cross the Park, providing a setting for the glaciers and the lakes dotted with ice throughout the park.



Today, explore the spectacular **Torres del Paine** National Park. Visit the huge “Cueva del Milodón”, a declared Natural Monument, where the German settler Hermann Eberhard found a prehistoric animal, Milodón, in 1896. Then stop in Cerro Castillo, a charming border town, before arriving at the entrance to the Park at Laguna Amarga where there is an excellent panoramic view of the mountains and of the famous towers “Las Torres”. Driving through the Park, enjoy the beauty of the natural surroundings, such as Nordenskjold Lake, Pehoé Lake, Salto Grande and Grey Lake with its spectacular glacier. Fantastic views of the mountains are set in this incredible landscape, including the famous horns (Los Cuernos) of the Torres Massif. Lunch will be taken in a local hosteria and there will be time for some short hikes to reach the most beautiful spots of the Park and to witness the diverse flora and fauna, condors, the king of the air, guanacos ñandus and many other bird species.

Return to Puerto Natales, visiting the **Myloodon’s Cave** on the way, an impressive natural cave where a gigantic prehistoric fossil was discovered, a replica of which can be seen at the entrance of the cave.

Arrival back at the hotel in Puerto Natales early evening.

Evening at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

**Day 13 – Feb 6 – Puerto Natales – Santiago – Vina del Mar (B)**

**Central Chile** is the cultural nucleus of the country and home to the cosmopolitan capital of Santiago as well as the attractive beach resorts 70 mile west on the Pacific Coast. It has an agreeable Mediterranean climate and is the heart of Chile’s wine producing region, with no less than 4 distinct and beautiful valleys, including the Casablanca, Maipo and Colchagua valleys, with vineyards that have become very well respected world-wide. Complementing the near-perfect climate, are well drained volcanic and fluvial soils and a rootstock brought from France in the 19<sup>th</sup> century which has been key in producing such well known wines as Concha y Toro, Cousino Macul, Santa Carolina and Undurragua. Grapes for white wine grown here include Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Riesling, Gewürztraminer, Chenin-Blanc, and Semillón. Grapes for reds include Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Pinot Noir.

**Santiago**, capital of Chile, was founded by Pedro de Vadivia in 1541 in the Río Mapocho Valley at the foothills of the Santa Lucia hill. It is scenically located in the Central Valley, between the Cordillera de la Costa and Cordillera de los Andes and the overwhelming presence of mountains in the valley are represented by San Cristobal and Santa Lucia hills. The majority of the economic, administrative, cultural, commercial, industrial and political activities of the country are concentrated here. This unassuming city has pleasant parks, colonial mansions, excellent museums and independent cultural scene with fine restaurants and a lively nightlife.



Breakfast at the hotel.

Drive to the airport for your morning flight to Santiago, arriving in the afternoon

**Physicians** – Visit to the **Hospital Salvador, a public hospital** (<http://www.hsalvador.cl/historia.php>) to review the facility and meet with local physicians. The hospital is one of the oldest in Santiago (built in 1871) and is one of the pioneers in kidney transplants in Chile.

**Non-physicians** – enjoy a panoramic **city tour** as you see the historic highlights of Santiago de Chile. The tour starts at Alameda Bernardo O'Higgins, Santiago's main avenue, visiting La Moneda, the Government Palace, where your guide will explain to you the historical and actual meaning of this place. Then stroll through the pedestrian streets of Huérfanos and Ahumada where the main commercial activity of the city is concentrated. Afterwards, visit the famous Plaza de Armas, the main square of the city, which is surrounded by the Metropolitan Cathedral and other historical buildings.

Then a short drive from Santiago to Vina del Mar to check in to your hotel.

Evening at leisure. Overnight at hotel.

#### Day 14 – Feb 7 – Vina del Mar (Valparaiso) (B, L)



**Vina del Mar**, also known as the Garden City, is located along the Pacific Coast and is a popular year-round holiday destination, providing exceptional weather, atmosphere, culture, history and fine food. The city includes beautiful mansions, luxurious hotels, parks and gardens, a municipal theatre, sporting facilities (such as the horseracing track and the famous Valparaíso Sporting Club) as well as many beaches. The palace on the Cerro Castillo is the summer residence for the Chilean president. The diversity of Vina del Mar Chile ensures visitors of an excellent vacation experience, whether you are touring the city in a horse-drawn carriage, sunning on a local beach or identifying the hundreds of flowers making up the face of the Flower Clock (a Vina del Mar landmark).

**Physicians - Morning medical conference** at in Vina del Mar featuring local and Canadian speakers, followed by lunch.

For **non-physicians** there will be a half day tour to see some of the sites of Valparaiso and Vina del Mar.

**Valparaíso's** picturesque layout, enhanced by the surrounding hills that seem to dive into the ocean, remind us that this was once the most important maritime destination of the Pacific coast before the Strait of Panama was opened to navigation in 1914. Visit the downtown area with its new government house, the Plaza Sotomayor, the Plaza Victoria, the cathedral and the harbour area. Afterwards, discover the colourful hill Neighbourhoods - here, high above the city, there is a fantastic agglomeration of brightly painted houses and a fantastic view over the city.

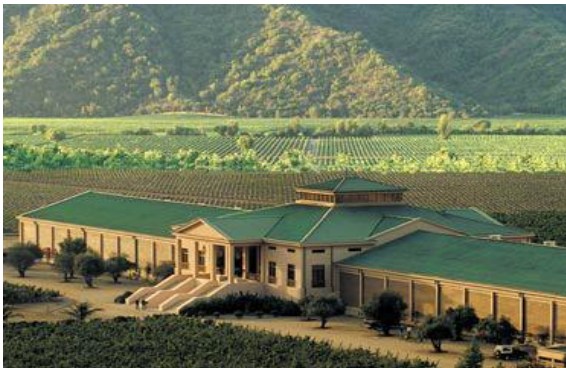


The upper and lower parts of the city are connected with 16 funicular railways constructed around the turn of the century when the city experienced tremendous growth. Then head back north along the coastline of the bay to Viña, with its many parks of huge trees and palms that gave Viña del Mar the well deserved name of 'Garden City'. Visit the beautiful park Quinta Vergara with its amphitheatre, the museum of fine arts as well as the Casino, which was built in 1932 before meeting up with the physicians for lunch at a local restaurant.

The balance of the afternoon and evening is at leisure to enjoy this attractive ocean front town.

Overnight at hotel.

#### Day 15 – Feb 8 – Vina del Mar (Isla Negra – Wineries) (B, L)



Breakfast at hotel before heading south to travel through the **Casablanca valley**, Chile's most traditional wine region and producer of the country's finest Cabernets and Merlots, from it's famous estates. Being close to the ocean, the Casablanca valley possesses a semi-arid climate and a marine influence that produces fog conditions, resulting in a transparent and radiant sun that allows the plants to grow without excess of temperature. These conditions are favorable to produce rich fruits in aroma and color thus producing one of the fruitiest wines of the region, particularly Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blancs. Visit the vineyard of **William Cole** and taste it's fine wines before continuing to the coastal town of **Isla Negra**, a small resort made famous by its most famous inhabitant, the renowned poet **Pablo Neruda**.

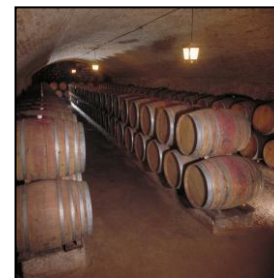
Neruda won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1971. He passed away in 1973, and this, reputedly his favorite of his three houses, is now a museum, an eclectic assembly of the poet's many collections—miniatures, vessels, colored bottles, fine glassware and seashells, to name a few—as well as his manuscripts. The house and its ocean view served as an everlasting source of inspiration for Neruda, and both are absolutely enchanting. Then head to another of the well known wineries, **Casa del Bosque**, where you will sample more of the local Chilean wines before enjoying a delicious late lunch at the winery.

Return to Vina where the evening is at leisure. Overnight at hotel. (If you are extending your tour to experience Chile's Atacama Desert you will be transferred to Santiago to stay in a hotel close to the airport due to the fact that it is an early morning flight from Santiago to Calama)



**Day 16 – Feb 9 – Vina del Mar – Concha y Toro – Santiago - Toronto (B)**

Breakfast at hotel. Check out of your hotel before driving to Santiago and visiting **Concha y Toro** vineyard, one of the largest exporters of fine wines in Chile, famous all over South America and beyond. It was founded in 1883 by the Marquis Casa Concha, who appointed French enologist M. de Labouchere to bring from France the best and most selected stockvine to be planted in the Maipo River Valley. Concha y Toro has been the leader adopting new techniques, updating its equipment and facilities for vinification, storage and bottling and has obtained countless prizes for quality both in Chile and abroad. It's most famous wines are Don Melchor, Marqueuz de Casa Concha and Casillero del Diablo. Learn about their wine production facilities and explore the historic museum.



There will then be sometime for some last minute shopping in Santiago before being transferred to the airport for your evening overnight flight back to Toronto

**Day 17 – Feb 10 (Fri) - Arrive back in Toronto**

Early morning arrival in Toronto.

**The accommodation...**

**On land...**

Location	Hotels
Buenos Aries (3 nights)	NH Lancaster <a href="http://www.nh-hotels.com/nh/en/hotels/argentina/buenos-aires/nh-lancaster">http://www.nh-hotels.com/nh/en/hotels/argentina/buenos-aires/nh-lancaster</a>
El Calafate (2 nights)	Hotel Kosten Aike <a href="http://www.kostenaike.com.ar/">http://www.kostenaike.com.ar/</a>
Ushuaia (1 night)	Hotel Los Acebos <a href="http://www.losacebos.com.ar/">http://www.losacebos.com.ar/</a>
Puerto Natales (2 nights)	Hotel Altiplanico Sur <a href="http://www.altiplanico.cl/En/Patagonia/patagonia.html">http://www.altiplanico.cl/En/Patagonia/patagonia.html</a>
Vina del Mar (3 nights)	Hotel Sheraton Miramar <a href="http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/search/hotel_detail.html?propertyID=1536">http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/search/hotel_detail.html?propertyID=1536</a>

All of the accommodation will be in first class properties. In the unlikely event that a property needs to be changed it will be substituted with one of a similar standard.

## At sea... The Stella Australis



**Cruceros Australis** has a maritime history in Tierra del Fuego that spans more than 100 years. Their fleet lets experience one of the most memorable journeys of a lifetime sailing through the Strait of Magellan and Beagle Channel where you will explore two of the most beautiful and untouched places on Earth – Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. Mass tourism is avoided with small ships where conservation and environmental protection is a key mission. Take interesting excursions guided by expert expedition leaders and enjoy on-board lectures providing a deep and lasting insight into this remote and spectacular wilderness like no place on earth.

The **Stella Australis**, launched in 2010, is a luxury, expedition cruise ship specially designed for Patagonia cruising. The ship has five decks, a capacity for 210 passengers and 100 cabins, each which feature picture windows and private facilities.

### Amenities on board the Stella Australis

The Stella Australis has three lounges for meetings equipped with modern audiovisual equipment, a dining room, an exercise room, and a spacious open deck area allowing the observation of the marvellous southern scenery at all times. The cruise offers daily excursions via Zodiac boats, accompanied by expert guides in small groups, audiovisual presentations on the region's flora, fauna, geography, glaciology, ethnography, and history and is equipped with satellite phone access. The cruise is "all-inclusive": breakfast, lunch, dinner, and 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.

### Stella Australis Accommodations

Each cabin has 2 twin or 1 double bed, picture windows, independent climate control (heating and air-conditioning), a private bathroom with shower, internal telephones and 110 volt electrical current. Cabin sizes are 16.5 m<sup>2</sup> (standard cabin) and our allocation is in 3 different categories – all the same size and facilities with the only difference being the deck upon which they are situated (A, lower through AAA, higher), ie

- Category A – Magallanes deck
- Category AA – Tierra del Fuego deck
- Category AAA – Cabo de Hornos deck



### Specifications:

Stella Australis was built in Chile in 2010 under the updated SOLAS 2001 and MARPOL 73/78 standards for worldwide ocean navigation certified by the ABS (American Bureau of Shipping), and is classified as a "Passenger Vessel".

Naut Length: 89.0 m

Breadth: 14.6 m

More information regarding the cruise can be found at <http://www.australis.com/site/en>

### The Academic Program...

The specific details of our Academic program will be available at a later date and will be included with your tickets. The program will include a morning conference at the hotel in Vina del Mar, Chile and will comprise presentations and interactive discussions on current issues as well as a presentation by a local Chilean medical expert. Visits are also planned to tour medical facilities in Buenos Aries, El Calafate (Argentina) and Santiago (Chile) to learn about the local medical practices. In addition, there are opportunities available for any physician who would like to make a short presentation at the conference – please let us know if you are interested in speaking by completing the relevant section of the tour registration form and the Group Medical Director, Dr. Peter Bloch (905-842-2660, [pbloch@cogeco.ca](mailto:pbloch@cogeco.ca)) will contact you directly. A certificate of attendance will be provided to all attendees of the Academic Program.



**The price... Cdn \$7,695 / person (Early Booking Price valid until October 31, 2011)**

<b>Pricing (exc. Insurance) / per person</b>	Inc. Air from Toronto
Per person (double occupancy) - include cabin category A on Stella Australis	<b>\$7,695 *</b>
Stella Australis – cabin category AA supplement	\$ 150 (per person) - \$225 if single
Stella Australis – cabin category AAA supplement	\$ 300 (per person) - \$450 if single
Single supplement	\$1,750
Single share matching fee	\$ 500 **
Transportation / hotel taxes and fees	\$ 485
Academic program registration fee	\$ 400 (per MD registrant)
Payable locally	
- Argentina entry (reciprocity) fee	US\$ 75
- Chile entry fee	US\$ 132
- International airport departure tax (approx)	US\$ 30

- **After the Early Booking rates expire on October 31, 2011 the pricing will increase to \$7,995**

\*\* Single share matching fee – can't find a traveling partner but don't want to pay the single supplement? We'll keep our eyes open for similar clients and try and find you a compatible person to share a room with.

**REPEAT CUSTOMER DISCOUNT**

If you have travelled with doctors-on-tour before, you are eligible for our Repeat Customer Discount. Simply deduct 1% for each separate tour that you have travelled with the company on up to a maximum of 3% (ie travelled on one previous tour, deduct 1%; two tours, 2%; three or more tours, 3%). Please note, this discount is applicable to the base price (eg above \$7,695) plus cabin upgrade supplements, single supplement / share matching fee and optional extensions only – it is not applicable to transportation / hotel taxes and fees, travel insurance and/or the academic program registration fee. **In addition, it is subject to the payment (s) for the tour being made by cheque.** The discount is to be made from the final balance payment with the deposit amount being paid in full.

## Inclusions –

- International flights from Toronto to Buenos Aires / Santiago to Toronto and all internal flights in Argentina & Chile
- Private, modern, air conditioned coach transportation
- All meet and greet services and arrival and departure transfers
- Accommodation for a total of 14 nights (11 nights in first class properties and 3 nights on Stella Australis)
- 14 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 5 dinners in a combination of hotel and local restaurants
- Drinks included on Stella Australis (both soft drinks and alcoholic beverages)
- Comprehensive daily itineraries including escorted tours of local cultural sites
- Visits to local wineries highlighting the different grapes of the regions, including wine tasting
- Academic program and visits to local medical facilities as indicated in the itinerary
- All admission fees (except those specifically noted above)
- Services of local English speaking cultural experts and guides including expert naturalist guides on Stella Australis
- Porterage

## Exclusions –

- Beverages (both soft drinks and alcoholic beverages) – unless specifically mentioned above
- Gratuities
- Entry fees for each of Chile & Argentina
- Airport departure taxes
- Travel insurance – please note, **travel insurance (including medical and trip interruption coverage) is highly recommended** for this tour. Coverage is available through doctors-on-tour – please check for further details in our brochure.
- All items of a personal nature such as telephone / internet usage, laundry services etc

We can also arrange **connecting flights** to Toronto from some other Canadian cities – current “add-on” pricing is noted below although is subject to change at the time of booking based on availability –

St. Johns	YYT	\$350
Halifax	YHZ	\$250
St. John	YSJ	\$250
Charlottetown	YYG	\$250
Montreal	YUL	\$100
Ottawa	YOW	\$100
Edmonton	YEG	\$400
Calgary	YYC	\$400
Vancouver	YVR	\$400

For **invoicing** purposes re doctors and their spouse, we can also provide a separate invoice with the doctor’s air cost plus 100% of the accommodation costs included in the doctor’s invoice.

**OUR PROGRAMS HAVE LIMITED CAPACITY AND WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND REGISTERING (WITH A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$600 PER PERSON, PLUS APPLICABLE TRAVEL INSURANCE PREMIUM) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE YOUR RESERVATION. PLEASE NOTE OUR EARLY BOOKING DEADLINE OF OCTOBER 31, 2011 TO SAVE \$600 / COUPLE**

## OPTIONAL STOPOVER EXTENSION – ATACAMA DESERT

(3 NIGHTS : FEBRUARY 9 – 13, 2012)

The **Atacama Desert** has the title of being the driest desert in the world with parts of the desert having not seen any rainfall since records began. On average, the South America desert sees as little as 1 cm of rainfall a year and supports next to no vegetation. However, this is a diverse and fascinating geographical region and is used by NASA to test their lunar and Mars exploration vehicles. This South America desert is set amongst a rich cultural heritage where ancient remnants of indigenous human habitation are reflected by human and animal figures that have been carved out on barren hillsides.



Unexpectedly, at points the arid Atacama Desert nestles alongside lagoons, springs and rich farmland busy with Atacama Desert animals such as grazing llamas and alpacas. This part of Chile also contains the world's largest open copper mine at Chuquibambilla. The rich copper and mineral deposits led to a huge natural supply of sodium nitrate ( saltpetre). While the supply has long since been exhausted, the desert is littered with abandoned mining towns. The Atacama Desert Chile sits at one end of neighboring Bolivia's vast salt plain of Salar de Uyuni, the world's largest salt flat.

The gateway to exploring the sparsely populated Atacama Desert region is through **San Pedro de Atacama** and ecotourism friendly Lauca National Park. The village of San Pedro de Atacama lies in the middle of the desert and acts as a small cluster of civilization for tourists. This little oasis sits on the edge of the Salar de Atacama (Salt Lakes of Atacama). The town offers abundant sights and activities including sand boarding and mountain biking. There is an archaeological museum with an array of ancient artifacts and preserved Inca mummies. Interestingly the display includes a number of tools used for smoking hallucinogenic plants native to the land.

This northern most region of Chile sits atop an altiplano some 7,500 feet above sea level and stretches into Bolivia and Peru. The high altitude, absence of cloud cover and light pollution make this remote desert the perfect place for astronomical observation. The altiplano also contains a number of volcanoes and lakes and while some of the volcanoes are extinct, active geysers betray the ones that still bubble with life. At such high altitude, El Tatio contains the highest geyser field to be found in the world at 4,300 meters.

We are attempting to add a small medical educational program component to this extension which would include visiting a local chaman that does therapy based on drum sounds and local herbs as well as visiting the Copper hospital in Calama, which specializes in the treatment of harsh mining conditions in this industry although at the current time, these arrangements have not been confirmed.

### Day 16 – Feb 9 – Santiago – Calama - San Pedro & the Moon Valley (B)

Early morning flight from Santiago to Calama. You will be met on arrival by your local guide and will be transferred to your hotel in San Pedro de Atacama. San Pedro is an unusually colourful village located 2,440 m above sea level in the middle of a green oasis.

In the afternoon, explore the mystifying Valle de la Luna, the famous **Moon Valley**. The Valley of the Moon is a fascinating area dotted with sand and stone formations which floods and winds have shaped for thousands of years, creating a series of soft desert colours. Many small hills and impressive sharp peaks highlight this special place.





The area, one of incomparable beauty, resembles a fragment of lunar landscape and this natural phenomenon was created by the meeting of the cordillera and the desert, and by landslides from the cordillera ravines which softly changed the gradient of its slopes. On moonlit nights, the valley is an indescribably impressive sight, full of majesty, silence and icy beauty and at sunset see how the light intensifies the impression of a moonscape as you climb a sand dune to watch this spectacle.

Moon Valley has been declared a Natural Sanctuary and is part of the Los Flamencos National Reserve Evening at leisure. Overnight in hotel in San Pedro.

### Day 17 – Feb 10 – San Pedro, Toconao and the Atacama Salt Lake (B, L)

After breakfast, visit **San Pedro de Atacama** – the centre of a Palaeolithic civilization that built impressive rock fortresses on the mountains encircling the green valley. The colonial church was constructed in 1577 and is the largest and most beautiful church of the region. The extraordinary archaeological museum of Padre Gustavo Le Paige shows, among its many archaeological pre-Hispanic artefacts, several amazingly well preserved mummies, including one known as “Miss Chile.” After this visit, drive 4 km to reach the pre-Columbian village Tulo with an approx. age of 3000 years. The archaeological remains are the oldest evidence of human settlement in the valley. Then continue to **Pukara de Quitor** a fortress, which was conquered in 1540 by the Spanish conquistadores defeating the Incan troops who, in turn, had captured it from the pre-Incan cultures and extended the fortification.



In the afternoon, continue to **Toconao**, a village where locals dedicate themselves to the manufacture of white volcanic stone sculptures. Then, onto the huge **Atacama Salt Lake**, an inland sea formed millions of years ago. The vast emptiness with the white salt crusts stretched out in front of you as far as the eyes can reach is overwhelming. It simply is one of the most spectacular and dramatic landscapes in Chile.

The Atacama salt flat is the biggest in Chile, covering an area of more than 3,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The air is extraordinarily dry, and as a result absolutely transparent. Because of this, the other end of the salt flat, some 70 km away, can be seen easily. Below the salt flat, hidden by a thick, irregular layer of salt, blackened by the desert dust, lies a lake which contains the largest reserve of lithium in the world. This mineral is used in some high technological industries and is exploited in the southern sector of the salt flat. In some places, the crust has been opened to give way to small lagoons which are a favourite habitat for water birds, particularly lamingos, coots and guallatas. The name salt cordillera derives from the fact that its rocks possess a large quantity of calcium sulphate, which makes them appear as though they have been sprinkled with salt.

Evening at leisure. Overnight in hotel in San Pedro.

**Day 18 – Feb 11 – El Tatio and Machuca (B)**

Depart your hotel very early this morning (about 4:00 am) to reach the El Tatio Geysers at an altitude of 4.300 m before sun-rise. In a remote setting it is the highest geothermal field in the world and offers a spectacular scenery. Make sure to bring warm clothes because it is very cold in the morning at this altitude. At dawn, powerful spurts of steam shoot up from various blowholes. The steaming ponds are encrusted with brilliant salt crystals reflecting the metal-blue sky at dawn. There will be plenty of time to enjoy this beautiful natural wonder before continuing to the village of Machuca where the ancient llama caravans used to rest from their travels on the “Inca High-way”. Today only few people live here.



Afterwards, return to San Pedro de Atacama.

Leisure time in the afternoon. Overnight in San Pedro.

**Day 19 – Feb 12 – Calama – Santiago – Toronto (B)**

After breakfast, transfer to Calama airport for your flight to Santiago.

Evening overnight flight from Santiago to Toronto

**Day 20 – Feb 13 (Mon)) - Arrive back in Toronto**

Early morning arrival in Toronto.

**The hotel base...**

San Pedro de Atacama (3 nights)

Hotel Altiplanico

<http://www.altiplanico.cl/En/Sanpedro/sanpedro.html>

**The price (to extend your stay...)      Cdn \$1,500 / person**

**Pricing (exc. Insurance)**

Per person (double occupancy) – standard room	<b>\$1,500</b>
Supplement for Superior room	TBA
Single person supplement	\$ 300
Transportation / hotel taxes and fees (per person)	\$ 135
Academic program registration fee (per MD registrant)	\$ inc in main program
Departure taxes & visas (payable locally - estimate)	\$ (at current time)

**Included** in the price (Cdn\$1,500):

- Domestic flight from Santiago to Calama
- Modern, air conditioned coach transportation
- First class hotel accommodation
- 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch
- Comprehensive daily itineraries including privately escorted tours
- Porterage

**Exclusions**

- Beverages (both soft drinks and alcoholic beverages)
- Gratuities
- Airport departure taxes
- Travel insurance`
- All items of a personal nature such as telephone / internet usage, laundry services etc

**Misc information you need to know...**

**Travel documentation and visas**

An entry visa is not required for Canadian citizens but your passport must have an expiry date no earlier than 6 months after your scheduled departure date from each of Chile & Argentina. Upon arrival in Argentina there is an entry (reciprocity) fee payable of US\$75 and upon arrival in Chile there is an entry fee payable of US\$132 (as at September 2011)

**Mandatory vaccinations**

None



## Insurance information...

We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance to provide you with peace of mind due to, in particular, limited provincial health care coverage afforded to Canadians while traveling overseas and the cancellation provisions inherent in your booking. We offer two insurance coverage options –

**Non-medical package** – There are **significant inherent cancellation penalties** associated with your booking as detailed in our booking terms and conditions and this insurance package provides coverage for all monies paid for your trip if you should have to cancel due to medical, or other listed, reasons either relating to yourself or a member of your immediate family. It also covers you for trip interruption costs short notice return flight home etc) for medical reasons again, either relating to yourself or an immediate family member as well as flight and travel accident and baggage insurance

**Deluxe package** – provides coverage for all the components in the non-medical package, plus unlimited health coverage while in the destination

Note, if you believe you may have coverage through your **credit card** we would strongly advise checking with the credit card company the actual coverage afforded to ensure it covers medical, trip cancellation and trip interruption as not all of these items are covered (or may only offer limited coverage as to trip duration or insured \$amount in the event of a claim - sometimes as low as only \$1,000 per person ) by all kinds of cards.

Total insurable costs	NON-MEDICAL PACKAGE				DELUXE PACKAGE			
	Age>	0-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	0-59	60-64	65-69
8000 - 8500	437	519	599	690	496	625	732	1,049
8500 - 9000	459	546	632	728	517	652	765	1,086
9000 - 9500	481	573	664	766	539	679	797	1,124
9500 - 10000	502	600	697	804	561	706	829	1,162
10000 - 10500	524	627	729	841	582	733	862	1,200
10500 - 11000	545	654	761	879	604	760	894	1,238
11000 - 11500	567	681	794	917	625	787	927	1,275
11500 - 12000	589	708	826	955	647	814	959	1,313
12000 - 12500	610	735	859	993	669	841	991	1,351
12500 - 13000	632	762	891	1,030	690	868	1,024	1,389
13000 - 13500	653	789	923	1,068	712	895	1,056	1,427

## Testimonials...

### What our physicians said about our previous educational escapes...

"A thoroughly enjoyable week – informative lectures, well organized tours and great company!  
Dr. Dagnija Kalnins, Port Credit – Los Cabos, Mexico, 2003

"Great hotel facilities, excellent service – an extremely enjoyable, and educational, week  
Dr. Doug Wooster, Toronto – Chile, 2005

"Great company, well organized and interesting tours, educational lectures and great food (and wine....!) –  
Fantastic trip!"  
Dr. Ray Martin, Toronto – Argentina, 2006

"Thanks for planning such an amazing trip. Our congenial group enjoyed so many rich experiences together  
and collected memories to last a lifetime. Each day was an adventure!  
Andrea Maurice – Vietnam / Cambodia, 2007

"I want to express our appreciation for a wonderful trip. The tour operator and the guides were excellent and  
everything went very smoothly.... this was a tremendous trip which we will need to review again over the  
coming days to catalogue and appreciate all the places we visited and the marvelous things we saw.. Thanks  
again for all the hard work in putting the trip together with the memorable result that was achieved...  
Dr. Rudy Hyles, Mississauga – Ecuador & The Galapagos, 2008

"Wonderful people! Wonderful places!"  
Dr. Phil McGuire, Ottawa – Peru, 2009

"The organization and accommodation were both excellent. We were always looked after with consideration  
and provided with a wide variety of interesting activities and experiences. The guides were most helpful and  
informative. A wonderful tour!"  
Dr. Michael Dales, Toronto - Ecuador & The Galapagos, 2009

"I do not have words to express my appreciation and admiration for the your hospitality and service provided by  
your company and your partners on the ground in India"  
Dr. Sudhir Pandya – Northern India, 2009

"We thoroughly enjoyed the recent trip to East Africa.  
All lodges were excellent. The event was a huge success. A lifetime highlight"  
John Bright - Kenya & Tanzania – March, 2010

"A wonderful trip. It was amazing to see so many different animals co-existing on the beautiful African plains.  
The Kenyan and Tanzanian people we met were gracious and welcoming.  
Our host/trip manager was excellent - very bright, knowledgeable, good problem solver, great people skills - a  
delightful man who really made our trip memorable. Our guide/driver was also excellent - very knowledgeable,  
an excellent driver and keen to make our safari experience a good one. We had lots of fun and learned a lot  
from him.  
I loved the parks and reserves - the Serengeti and Ngorongoro are absolutely amazing".  
Andrea Maurice, Toronto – Kenya & Tanzania – March, 2010

"The guides throughout the trip were superb, well informed with excellent local knowledge and willing to  
discuss any topic! The visits to the local hospitals were excellent. A fantastic tour!"  
Dr. Linda Stirk, Toronto - Ecuador & The Galapagos (and Peru), 2010

"In addition to exploring the fantastic sights, and tastes, of Northern India, our group visited local hospitals and  
clinics to learn more about how medicine is practiced in India as well as in the SOS Children's village in Jaipur  
and the Mother Teresa charity Mission in Agra" - Dr. Serge Puksa, Northern India, 2011

## The fine print...

The Terms & Conditions contained herein are the terms under which on-tour.ca and doctors-on-tour.ca (being operating brands of Britcan International Consulting (B.I.C.) Inc) accepts reservations. Our liabilities are limited. When you make a payment of deposit and/or final payment, it is also an acknowledgement of receipt and acceptance of these terms and conditions.

**RESERVATIONS & DEPOSIT** Early reservations are recommended to guarantee your reservation as several of the accommodation providers with which we make arrangements on your behalf have limited capacity. All services are strictly on a request basis, both for air travel and land requirements and subject to availability of seats and hotel/lodge/camp rooms. A guaranteed non-refundable deposit of \$600 per person (together with the applicable travel insurance premium is required with your reservation request. Tour extensions are also subject to additional non-refundable deposits as detailed in our brochure. Reservations made for travel within 105 days will require full payment at the time of reservation. Certain non-standard arrangements may require higher deposit and the same will be advised to you at the time of booking. Please be aware that some airfares (outside of our group air blocks) require full payment at time of booking and will be advised to you accordingly.

**FINAL AND/OR BALANCE DUE PAYMENT:** Guaranteed payment of all balances due is no later than 95 days prior to departure date. If payment of the balance due is not received by the stipulated date, we reserve the right to cancel your reservation without refund of deposit.

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS:** Visa & MasterCard credit cards are accepted as form of payment. Credit card payments require that the passenger complete and sign our Booking Form as verification of their approval for the credit card to be charged both for the initial deposit as well as the future balance payments on the date they become due, together with any other charges due relating to the booking that have been requested by you in writing (including by electronic mail communication). No services will be provided without receipt of the signed Booking Form. Third party payments may have restrictions.

**CANCELLATIONS & CHANGES:** The deposit amounts (for both the main tour and any optional extensions reserved) are non-refundable. Cancellation penalties for bookings cancelled by the client after the final balance due date (105 days before departure) are as follows: 105 – 61 days before departure – 25% of total price paid; 60 – 31 days – 50% of total price paid; 30 days or less – 100%. (Notwithstanding the foregoing, any domestic Canada flight purchased as an additional service to the advertised package is 100% non-refundable irrespective of the date of cancellation). If payments are not received by their due dates, we reserve the right to cancel the booking without further notice. There will be no refund for unused land arrangements after departure from North America. In the event of the cancellation by doctors-on-tour.ca of any or all components of the travel services offered herein, doctors-on-tour.ca will have no responsibility beyond the refund of all monies received from the client, which will be deemed to constitute full settlement. Individual airfares purchased outside of our groups air blocks are subject to different rules and cancellation fees. Some airfares may be non-refundable once the booking is confirmed regardless of when it was made. Details will be provided at the time of booking.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** To protect against cancellation charges, we strongly recommend purchasing Cancellation Protection and Travel Interruption Insurance. Cancellation insurance must be purchased at time of initial deposit. In the event of illness, medical and hospital expenses are the traveler's responsibility and no refunds will be made, partial or total, for the purchased tour. We strongly urge that you purchase either the Non-Medical insurance (ie Cancellation Protection and Travel Interruption Insurance) or Deluxe Insurance (Non-Medical coverage plus Health coverage) packages offered by our doctors-on-tour through RBC Insurance.

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION, VISA & OTHER IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS:** A Canadian citizen must be in possession of a passport that must remain valid for a minimum of 6 months from the date of conclusion of their journey. Tour participants must also ensure that they comply with all visa and health requirements of countries they intend to visit. A tourist entry visa is not required for entry into Chile or Argentina. Non Canadian citizens may have different requirements. It is the passenger's responsibility to ensure that all his or her passport, visa and mandatory health vaccination requirements for entry into the country are met and the cancellation penalties referred to above will apply if a passenger is not allowed into the destination country (or determines in advance of departure that he will not be allowed into the destination country) due to lack of proper documentation including, but not limited to, passport, visa, customs, health or currency provisions required by the destination country thus preventing him from participate in the tour. Final tour documents consisting of detailed tour itinerary, vouchers, and airline tickets will be forwarded approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure subject to receipt of final payment .

**PRICING POLICY :** Accommodations and services at the destination are contracted in local currencies and/or US Dollars. Due to frequent fluctuations in currency exchange (as well as other factors beyond our control including, but not limited to, fuel costs, transportation taxes and airport and local surcharges), prices are subject to change with or without notice and surcharges may apply for which we would endeavor to inform you as soon as possible .However, once we have received your final payment we would either waive any price increase or allow you to cancel your booking without penalty.

**UNUSED PORTION OF THE TOUR:** No refund will be made for any unused accommodations, missed meals, transportation segments, cruise portions, sightseeing tours or any other service. Such unused items are neither refundable nor exchangeable.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Accommodations on twin occupancy basis, is provided at the hotels/lodges/camps/cruise ships as specified or similar. Single room supplements apply to persons occupying sole use of a room/cabin but travelling with other passengers on the same tour and sharing transport cost on transfers, game drives, coach tours, sightseeing and excursions. Quoted single room rate does not necessarily mean single occupancy of a double room, as several of the establishments offered have especially designed single occupancy units. Local accommodation ratings in overseas destinations outside of Canada may not always be consistent between individual properties in that particular destination nor are they necessarily comparable to an equivalent rating in North America. The right is reserved to substitute hotels/cruise ships should conditions warrant such change for reasons beyond our control. Rooms/cabins are assigned by the respective supplier(s) on a run-of-the-house basis, in category (ies) as specified in the itinerary



**SINGLE PASSENGERS TRAVELLING TOGETHER:** If you are travelling with a companion and each paying separately the regular each of two double sharing accommodation rate and your companion decides to cancel, the remaining travelling passenger will be responsible for either finding a replacement travelling companion to take the cancelled passenger's place or must pay the single supplement and travel on a single basis.

**MEALS & BEVERAGES:** Meals as included on our itineraries are either buffet meals and/or table d'hôte. Meals ordered through room service are not included and must be paid directly to the establishment. Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, and bottled water are included only where indicated on the itinerary. Unless specifically mentioned in your itinerary, all drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) are to be purchased and paid directly to the establishments.

**OPTIONAL TOURS, EXCURSIONS AND TRIP EXTENSIONS:** It is our intent to operate any Optional Extensions on a private group basis. However, should the number of participants be of an insufficient level, we reserve the right to either

- (1) add a surcharge to the previously stated selling price to be able to still offer the extension on a private basis or
- (2) operate any individual tour on a shared basis with other non-group participants or
- (3) cancel the tour and provide a full refund of all monies paid.

No refunds can be provided for cancellation of any tour by the client while in the destination.

**SPECIAL REQUESTS:** While we will make every effort to accommodate special requests, eg., room/cabin locations, adjoining rooms, non-smoking rooms, bed preferences, special dietary meal requests, these cannot be guaranteed and doctors-on-tour.ca cannot be held responsible if such requests cannot be fulfilled. Requests for upgrading rooms/cabins are subject to additional charges. Any deviations to the standard program arrival and departure flight dates should be notified at the time of booking and are subject to availability and also any applicable flight class supplement.

**DOCUMENT DELIVERY:** Your travel documents will be sent to you approximately 3 weeks prior to departure. For bookings received within 3 weeks of departure, express delivery of documents will require a courier delivery fee of \$30 to cover extra handling and processing. Additional courier charges will apply for all residents outside of Canada, irrespective of when the booking is made.

**CONSUMER PROTECTION:** doctors-on-tour.ca is licensed under the Ontario Government Ministry of Consumer & Corporate Relations, Travel Industry Act 1974, Registration No. 50009110. The Act is administered by the Travel Industry Council of Ontario (TICO), the government regulated body which is responsible for enforcing and monitoring the Travel Industry Act, including the protection of advance monies paid to its registrants by consumers. More information about TICO is available at <http://www.tico.on.ca/>

**NOTICE TO TRAVELLERS:** Canadians enjoy a living standard which is among the highest in the world. In other countries, the uninterrupted supply of water and electricity, local health conditions, levels of security and standards of food and beverages may sometimes differ from those enjoyed at home. Illness or inconvenience resulting from the services provided or omitted at the destination are outside the reasonable control of doctors-on-tour.ca and doctors-on-tour.ca bears no responsibility for such illness or inconvenience. doctors-on-tour.ca cannot accept responsibility for the behaviour of other guests/groups nor the unlikely event of the withdrawal of services or facilities due to local cultural and political events or holidays.

**FORCE MAJEURE:** doctors-on-tour.ca shall not be liable for any claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses, delays or loss of enjoyment, of any nature or kind whatsoever, resulting from events beyond our or a supplier's reasonable control, including but not limited to acts of God, strikes, lockouts or other labour disputes or disruptions, wars, blockades, insurrections, riots, earthquakes, weather conditions, floods or acts or restraints imposed by government authorities.

**OUR RESPONSIBILITIES :** doctors-on-tour.ca makes arrangements with airlines, tour operators, ground handlers, hotels/lodges, cruise lines, car rental companies & other independent parties to provide you with the travel services and other services you purchase. Although we take care in selecting these suppliers, we have no control over them and, therefore, cannot be responsible for their acts or omissions. In the unlikely event that a hotel / lodge described in this brochure is not available we reserve the right to provide an alternate hotel / lodge of the equivalent standard. We also reserve the right to substitute another airline if the particular airline described in this brochure is not available.

The travel services provided are subject to the applicable provincial Travel Industry Acts and Regulations and are subject to the conditions imposed by these suppliers and their liability is limited by their tariffs, conditions of carriage, tickets and vouchers and international conventions and agreements.

doctors-on-tour.ca shall not be responsible for any loss, damage or injury, whether physical or mental, or to property, resulting from any delay, substitution or deficiency of quality of equipment or service, or any act, omission, negligence or commission of any party supplying any of the services or accommodation herein, its agents, servants, employees, subcontractors or for any claims for such loss, damage, or injury, whether physical or mental, arising therefrom, or from any cause that arises by reason of actions of parties other than doctors-on-tour.ca. In the event that it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well being of the passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to doctors-on-tour.ca. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, also to decline to accept or retain any passengers as members of the tours. doctors-on-tour.ca can assume no responsibility for lost tickets or coupons. The liability of doctors-on-tour.ca for any loss, damage or injury, whether physical or mental, arising from its own acts, omissions or negligence, is limited to the price of the services purchased.