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PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT ESCAPE

**CME, CULTURAL, ECOLOGICAL & WINE TOUR OF  
CHILE & ARGENTINA (including 5 day Patagonia Cruise)**

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

January 30 – February 15, 2019



**The Organizers...**

**Doctors-on-Tour >**

**Doctors-on-Tour** was created in 2000 and specializes in offering ecological, cultural, gastronomical and adventure travel to exotic destinations for physicians who want to combine learning and travelling. Our programs offer targeted educational programs offering updates on current topics of interest together with meetings and discussions with local health care representatives to specifically discuss common medical developments in, and challenges facing, the local health care systems in both Canada and the country where the meetings and discussions are being located. This also includes in-depth tours of hospital facilities (both public and private) in order to meet with local medical practitioners and review, and compare, facilities, techniques and practices on a first hand basis. We offer programs in several worldwide locations including to such diverse and intriguing areas as **South America (Brazil, Chile/Argentina, Ecuador/Peru), Africa (Kenya/Tanzania, South Africa, Zanzibar, Kilimanjaro climb), India, Bhutan/Myanmar, China, South East Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos & Bali), Bhutan/Myanmar, Malaysia/Singapore, New Zealand and Europe (Eastern Europe, Iceland, Spain).**

Additional information, including detailed program brochures downloadable in pdf format and recent testimonials, can be found at [www.doctorsontour.ca](http://www.doctorsontour.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).

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e: [info@doctorsontour.ca](mailto:info@doctorsontour.ca)

**Dr. Steve Szarka** B.Eng., M.Eng., M.D., C.C.F.P. - Hamilton, On.

Dr. Steve Szarka is a family physician with a private practice in Hamilton, Ontario. His undergraduate education in both Electrical and Computer Engineering (B.Eng, M.Eng) and Medicine (M.D) was also obtained at McMaster University in Hamilton. In Hamilton, he helped establish, and was the Lead Physician for, one of the first Primary Care Reform Networks (PCN) in Ontario. He has also served on Steering Committees for the establishment of the first Family Health Team in Ontario, and to help establish protocols for the Family Health Team in the Hamilton Area relating to the management of chronic care diseases as it pertains to diabetes. He currently holds the position of Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Family Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University and is a Past-President for the Hamilton Academy of Medicine.

He developed a special interest in phlebology and sat on the board of directors for the Canadian Society of Phlebology. This has been a challenging position that has allowed him to interact and teach his colleagues in this field, both here in Canada and as an invited speaker all over the world.

This is Dr. Szarka's sixth venture with Doctors-on-Tour having led previous CME programs to Eastern Europe (2015, 2017), South East Asia (2016), Ecuador, the Galapagos and Peru (2016) and the upcoming (November 2018) program to South Africa.

Dr. Szarka may be contacted at –

e: [szarkas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:szarkas@mcmaster.ca), Tel: 1-905-648-3322

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

**Argentina** - the name comes from the Latin *argentum* which means silver and it's 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 **Valparaiso 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 luxury expedition cruise ship – the recently commissioned (year built) **Ventis Australis** of Cruceiros Australis cruiseslines

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

## The Academic Program (approximately 15 CME hours) ...

Complete details of our Academic Program will be provided in your full documentation package, however, as noted in the detailed itinerary, the program will include the following -

- **Physicians - Academic medical conference** on the Ventus Australis featuring local and Canadian speakers & interactive discussions on current medical issues. This will include "Patagonia: From ice to flowers", a presentation on **Aboriginal natural medicine**.
- A visit to the ship's hospital on the cruise to review it's on-board facilities and to learn about common passenger ailments at sea from the ship's doctor
- Visits to local, and contrasting, hospital facilities to meet with local physicians, review their facilities and learn about the health care system in Argentina and Chile -
  - Public hospital in Buenos Aries, Argentina
  - Public hospital in Ushuaia, Argentina
  - Local hospital in Vina del Mar, Chile

In addition, any physician who would like to make a short presentation at the Academic Conference should register their interest by completing the relevant section of the program registration form and the **Group Medical Director, Dr. Steve Szarka** (e: [szarkas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:szarkas@mcmaster.ca), Tel: 1-905-648-3322), will contact you directly. A certificate of attendance will be provided to all attendees of the Academic Program.

## The detailed itinerary...

### Day 1 – Jan 30, 2019 (Wed) - Depart Toronto for Buenos Aries (Argentina)

Depart Toronto on international overnight flight to Buenos Aries on Air Canada arriving in Buenos Aries the next day.

### Day 2 – Jan 31 - Arrive Buenos Aries (Argentina) (L, 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 Vía; 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.



Morning arrival in Buenos Aires where you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel.

Check-in and lunch at the hotel.

In the afternoon, there will be an initial orientation tour of the city.

Dinner and overnight in Buenos Aires.

### Day 3 – Feb 1 – Buenos Aires - City tour (B, L )

Breakfast at the hotel.

**Physicians** - Early morning visit to Hospital Clinicas Jose De San Martin, a medical facility in Buenos Aires to learn about the Argentinean healthcare system and meet with local doctors.

<http://www.hospitaldeclinicas.uba.ar/>

Afterwards meet up with the rest of the group for a **city tour of Buenos Aires**. 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.



Lunch will be at a typical local restaurant, before continuing to the Buenos Aires port area, past San Martin Square towards Palermo Chico residential district and Palermo Park with its jacaranda and palo borracho trees which flower in the spring and late summer. Continue to the elegant Recoleta district to visit Recoleta Cemetery where the famous are laid to rest (including Eva Peron). Finally, return to the hotel along the stylish Alvear Ave.

Evening at leisure. Overnight in Buenos Aires.

**Day 4 – Feb 2 – Buenos Aires - Tigre & Delta tour (B, L)**



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 (La Bistecca), enjoy a 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.

Evening at leisure. Overnight in Buenos Aires.

**Day 5 – Feb 3 – Buenos Aires, including Tango Show (B, D)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today, enjoy free time to continue to explore this fascinating city independently.

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. La Ventana  
<http://www.laventanaweb.com/>

Overnight in Buenos Aires.



Day 5 – Feb 4 – Buenos Aries - Ushuaia (Argentina) (B, D)



*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 it's Ensenada Bay until it reaches the Macarena Waterfalls. The train continue into the National Park with it's 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.

Dinner at the hotel. Overnight in Ushuaia.

**Day 6 – Feb 5 - Ushuaia – Patagonia Cruise (Ventus Australis) (B, D)**



Breakfast at the hotel.

**Physicians** - visit to the **Regional (Public) Hospital Ushuaia** to learn about local public healthcare in the region.

Non-physicians - Free time to explore the town of Ushuaia before being joining your physician partners and being transferred to the pier to board the Ventis 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 one of the remotest parts of the planet.

**CRUISE OVERVIEW**

Explore Patagonia on an adventurous **five-day, four-night** journeys between Ushuaia (Argentina) to Punta Arenas (Chile) through some of planet's most remote places and incredible scenery. Discover the wild beauty of Patagonia on an the **Ventus Australis** cruise that showcases the region's pristine landscapes, rich wildlife and fascinating human history aboard an expedition ship that brings an extraordinary level of comfort and service to the uttermost edge of the world. Leaving the twinkling lights of Ushuaia behind, the vessel calls on fabled spots like Cape Horn and Wulaia Bay before cruising down the Beagle Channel. Continuing through the maze of islands, we'll visit a number of glaciers, frozen giants that guard the southern flank of the Fuegian Archipelago, before entering the legendary Strait of Magellan. Last stop is the Isla Magdalena and its boisterous Patagonia penguin colony before docking at Punta Arenas.

During the cruise, there will be the following CME activities which will take place when the ship is sailing between the island visits -

- **Lectures by Canadian physicians**
- **"Patagonia: From ice to flowers"** a presentation that details the evolution of local flora after the last Ice Age, which covered more than 60% of Patagonia, including a discussion of the more important trees, shrubs, flowers and plants that inhabit Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego today and how they have been used as part of Aborginal natural medicine
- **Visit to the ship's hospital** to meet with ship's doctor learn about common onboard medical issues

**Day 7 – Feb 6 – Patagonia Cruise (Ventus Australis) – Cape Horn / Wulaia Bay (B, L, D)**



Around the break of dawn, the Australis cruise crosses Nassau Bay and enters the remote archipelago that comprises Cape Horn National Park. Weather and sea conditions permitting, go ashore on the windswept island that harbors legendary **Cape Horn** (Cabo de Hornos). Discovered in 1616 by a Dutch maritime expedition -- and named after the town of Hoorn in West Friesland -- Cape Horn is a sheer 425-meter (1,394-foot) high rocky promontory overlooking the turbulent waters of the Drake Passage. For many years it was the only navigation route between the Pacific and Atlantic, and was often referred to as the "End of the Earth." The park was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2005. The Chilean navy maintains a permanent lighthouse on the island, staffed by a lightkeeper and his family, as well as the tiny Stella Maris Chapel and modern Cape Horn Monument (currently awaiting repair after being damaged by fierce winds).

Sailing back across Nassau Bay, anchor at fabled **Wulaia Bay**, one of the few places in the archipelago where the human history is just as compelling as the natural environment. Originally the site of one of the region's largest Yámana aboriginal settlements, the bay was described by Charles Darwin and sketched by Captain FitzRoy in the 1830s during their voyages on HMS Beagle. This area is also renowned for its mesmerizing beauty and dramatic geography. After a visit to the Australis-sponsored museum in the old radio station -- which is especially strong on the Yámana people and European missionaries in the area -- passengers have a choice of three hikes (of increasing degrees of difficulty) that ascend the heavily wooded mountain behind the bay. On all of these you stroll through an enchanted Magellanic forest of lengas, coigües, canelos and ferns to reach panoramic viewpoints overlooking the bay.

**Day 8 – Feb 7 - Patagonia Cruise (Ventus Australis) – Pía Glacier / Garibaldi Glacier (B, L, D)**



Overnight, the cruise continues the Patagonia glacier tour around the western end of Tierra del Fuego via the very narrow **Gabrial Channel, Magdalena Channel and Cockburn Channel**. After rounding the remote Brecknock Peninsula, the ship tacks eastward and enters the Beagle Channel again. By morning we are entering Pia Fjord and boarding the Zodiacs for a shore excursion to **Pia Glacier**. After disembarking, take a short hike to gain a panoramic view of the spectacular glacier, which extends from the mountaintops down to the sea or a longer much more difficult walk up a lateral moraine of the old Pia Glacier.

No one knows for certain how the hulking mass of snow and ice got its feminine moniker, but one theory says it was named for Princess Maria Pia of Savoy (1847-1911), daughter of the Italian king.

Making our way further west along the Beagle Channel, enter another long fjord and drop anchor near **Garibaldi Glacier** for another shore excursion. Garibaldi is one of only three glaciers in Patagonia gaining mass rather than staying the same or slowly shrinking. This time we hike through virgin Magellanic forest to a glacial waterfall, a towering wall of ferns and moss, and spectacular viewpoints looking down on the glacier and fjord. The walk is demanding -- very steep, negligible trail, rough footing -- and not for everyone. For those who choose to stay onboard, our captain will point the bow towards the beautiful sky blue Garibaldi Glacier so everyone can enjoy the panoramic view from the upper decks.

**Day 9 – Feb 8 - Patagonia Cruise (Ventus Australis) – Agostini Sound / Aguila Glacier / Condor Glacier (B, L,D)**



Early in the morning, sail through the Cockburn Channel and enter **Agostini Sound**. From there it is possible to see the glaciers that descend from the middle of the Darwin Mountain Range -- some of them reaching the water. This morning, disembark and go for an easy walk around a lagoon, which was formed by the melting of the **Águila Glacier**. It's the perfect opportunity to experience the beauty of Patagonia's cold rainforest and to see how the power of nature has molded the spectacular landscape. Reach a spot right in front of that glacier with stunning views. In the afternoon, approach the **Condor Glacier** via zodiac -- and hopefully see some of the abundant Andean Condors in the area.

**Day 10 – Feb 9 – Patagonia Cruise (Ventus Australis) – Punta Arenas - Puerto Natales (Chile) (B)**



After an overnight cruise through **Magdalena Channel** and back into the Strait of Magellan, anchor off **Magdalena Island**, which lies about halfway between Tierra del Fuego and the Chilean mainland. Crowned by a distinctive lighthouse, the island used to be an essential source of supplies for navigators and explorers and is inhabited by an immense colony of Magellanic penguins. At the break of dawn, weather permitting, go ashore and hike a path that leads through thousands of penguins to a small museum lodged inside the vintage 1902 lighthouse. Many other bird species are also found on the island. In September and April -- when the penguins dwell elsewhere -- this excursion is replaced by a ride aboard Zodiacs to Marta Island to observe South American sea lions. After a short cruise south along the strait, disembarkation at Punta Arenas is scheduled for around 11:30 AM.

Upon disembarkation in Punta Arenas, you will 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 in Puerto Natales.

#### Day 11 – Feb 10 – 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 in Puerto Natales.

**Day 12 – Feb 11 – Puerto Natales – Santiago – Vina del Mar (Chile) (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**, the 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 flight to Santiago, Chile's capital city.

Then a short drive from Santiago to Vina del Mar, Chile's coastal playground, to check in to your hotel.

Evening at leisure. Overnight in Vina del Mar.

**Day 13 – Feb 12 – 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*

**Physicians** - Early morning visit to a local hospital in the Vina area to learn about the Chilean healthcare system and meet with local doctors.

Afterwards the whole group will take a half day tour to see some of the sites of Valparaiso and Vina del Mar.

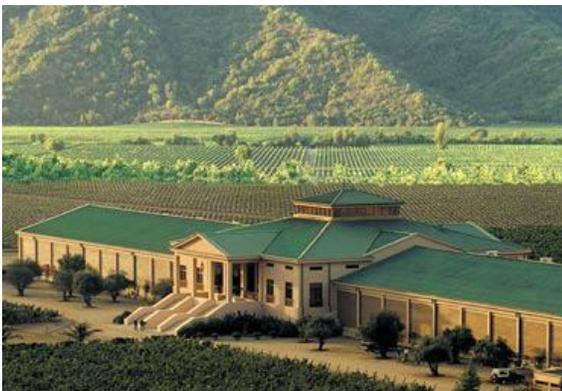
**Valparaíso's** picturesque layout, enhanced by the surrounding hills that seem to dive into the ocean, remind us that this was once the most important maritime destination of the Pacific coast before the Strait of Panama was opened to navigation in 1914. Visit the downtown area with its new government 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. Lunch at a local restaurant.

The balance of the afternoon and evening is at leisure to enjoy this attractive ocean front town. Overnight in Vina del Mar.

**Day 14 – Feb 13 – Vina del Mar (Isla Negra – Casablanca winery valley) (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.

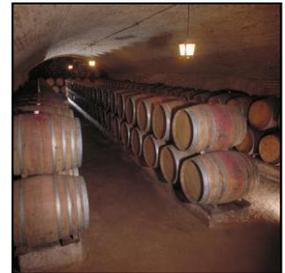
First, visit the coastal resort town of **Isla Negra**, and the museum of **Pablo Neruda**, the renowned Chilean poet. Neruda won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1971. He passed away in 1973, and this, reputedly his favorite of his three houses, is now a museum, an eclectic assembly of the poet's many 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. Afterwards, continue to the vineyard of **Casa del Bosque** to learn about wine production in the area and sample some of its final local Chilean wines before enjoying a delicious late lunch at the vineyard.

Return to Vina where the evening is at leisure. Overnight in Vina del Mar.

**(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, the gateway to the Atacama Desert, on Feb 14)

#### Day 15 – Feb 14 – 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, Marquez de Casa Concha and Casillero del Diablo. Learn about their wine production facilities and explore the historic museum.



In the afternoon there will be time for some shopping before being transferred to an airport hotel prior to your early morning return flight to Canada the next day.

#### Day 16 – Feb 15, 2019 (Fri) - Arrive back in Toronto

Depart Santiago on your return flight to Toronto on Air Canada. Early evening arrival in Toronto.

## The accommodation...

### On land...

Location	Hotels
Buenos Aries (4 nights)	Melia Buenos Aries (4*) <a href="https://www.melia.com/en/hotels/argentina/buenos-aires/melia-buenos-aires/index.html">https://www.melia.com/en/hotels/argentina/buenos-aires/melia-buenos-aires/index.html</a>
Ushuaia (1 night)	Hotel Albatross (4*) <a href="http://www.albatroshotel.com.ar/?cc=en">http://www.albatroshotel.com.ar/?cc=en</a>
Puerto Natales (2 nights)	Costaustralis Hotel (4*) <a href="https://www.hotelcostaustralis.com/en/">https://www.hotelcostaustralis.com/en/</a>
Vina del Mar (3 nights)	Atton San Martin Hotel (4*) <a href="http://new.atton.com/en/hoteles/atton-san-martin/">http://new.atton.com/en/hoteles/atton-san-martin/</a>
Santiago (1 night)	Holiday Inn Santiago Airport (4*) <a href="https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/santiago/sclap/hoteldetail">https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/santiago/sclap/hoteldetail</a>

As noted above, the accommodation will be in 4\* 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 Ventus Australis



**Cruceros Australis** has a maritime history in Tierra del Fuego that spans more than 100 years. Their fleet lets you 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 **Ventus Australis**, launched in January 2018, 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. The name – Latin for "Southern Wind" – reflects Tierra del Fuego's distinctive weather, a factor that has long determined the region's socio-cultural development and that so impressed the early mariners who endeavored to explore Patagonia's southernmost waterways.

Tailor-made for exploring the remote southern tip of South America, all aspects of the ship -- including size, length, draft and engine power -- are designed to give Ventus Australis the extreme maneuverability necessary to navigate narrow fjords and channels where no other cruise ships can venture.

### Amenities on board the Ventus Australis

The Ventus Australis has three lounges for meetings equipped with modern audiovisual equipment, a dining 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.

### Ventus 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. Our allocation is in 4 different categories – with the exception of the AA Superior (20.5 m<sup>2</sup>), all are the same size (16.5 m<sup>2</sup>) and facilities with the only difference being the deck upon which they are situated (A, lower through AAA, higher), and slightly larger windows ie

- Category A – Magallanes deck, cabin size 16.5 m<sup>2</sup> (Window 1.38m high x 1.46m wide)
- Category AA – Tierra del Fuego deck, cabin size 16.5 m<sup>2</sup> (Window 1.80m high x 1.46m wide)
- Category AA Superior – Tierra del Fuego deck 20.5 m<sup>2</sup> (Window 1.80m high x 1.59m wide)
- Category AAA – Cabo de Hornos deck, cabin size 16.5 m<sup>2</sup> (Window 1.80m high x 1.59m wide)



More information regarding Australis Cruises and the Ventus Australis can be found at <http://www.australis.com/site/en>

**The price... Cdn \$9,995 / person (for all bookings up to October 31, 2018)**

<b>Pricing (exc. Insurance) / per person</b>	In Cdn \$ including air from Toronto !!
Per person (double occupancy) - includes Category A cabin (Magallanes deck) on M/V Ventus Australis (other cabin types have a supplement) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• registrations up to Oct 31, 2018</li> <li>• registrations after Oct 31, 2018</li> </ul>	\$9,995 \$10,495
Single supplement	\$2,450
Single share fee	\$ 300 **
Transportation / hotel taxes and fees	\$ 685
Supplements to upgrade accommodation on M/V Ventis Australis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Category AA (Tierra del Fuego deck)</li> <li>• Category AAA (Cabo de Hornos deck)</li> <li>• Category AA Superior (Tierra del Fuego deck)</li> </ul>	\$ 300 (per person) - \$ 450 if single \$ 600 (per person) - \$ 900 if single \$ 1,100 (per person) - \$ 1,650 if single
Academic program registration fee	\$ 700 (per MD registrant)
Payable locally - the Argentina entry (reciprocity) fee is no longer payable	

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

Preferred rate upgrades are available on Air Canada to **Premium Economy and Business class** cabins (see our registration form for details).

We can also arrange **connecting flights** to Toronto from several other Canadian cities – please include your preferred originating city on our online registration form.

**CANADIAN \$ PRICING !**

Please note, unlike many programs offered by other companies which are quoted in US\$ (and are also usually land only prices excluding air fare), **our prices remain in Canadian\$** - and, with a premium now of around 30% (at August 2018) when paying in US\$, this makes a significant difference.

**COST EFFICIENT INVOICING !**

For **invoicing** purposes re Academic Program registrants and their companions, we can also provide a separate invoice with the registrant's air cost plus 100% of the accommodation costs included in the registrant's invoice.

## REPEAT CUSTOMER DISCOUNT

If you are one of our many repeat clients, having travelled with Doctors-on-Tour on one of our previous educational tours, you are eligible for our Repeat Customer Discount. Simply deduct \$100 /person for each separate tour that you have travelled with the company on up to a maximum of \$300 /person (ie travelled on one previous tour, deduct \$100; two tours, \$200; three or more tours, \$300). **Please note, this discount 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.

## NEW ! - ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM

Our **online registration form** may be accessed via the direct link below -

<https://fs22.formsite.com/Doctorsontour/CHIARG1901/index.html>

Full program information may also be found at -

<http://www.doctorsontour.ca/cme-programs-chile-argentina-upcoming-1901.php>

**REGISTER BY OCTOBER 31, 2018 AND SAVE \$1,000/COUPLE !!**

## Inclusions and Exclusions...

### Inclusions –

- International flights from Toronto to Buenos Aires / Santiago to Toronto on Air Canada 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 15 nights (11 nights in 4\* properties and 4 nights on Ventus Australis)
- 15 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 7 dinners in a combination of hotel and local restaurants
- **Drinks included on Ventus 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 Ventus Australis
- Porterage at hotels

### Exclusions –

- Beverages (both soft drinks and alcoholic beverages) – unless specifically mentioned above
- Gratuities
- Airport departure taxes (none as of August 2018)
- 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

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 ARE SUBSCRIBED FOR MANY MONTHS IN ADVANCE**

**WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND REGISTERING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE YOUR RESERVATION.**

Online registration is available at <https://fs22.formsite.com/Doctorsontour/CHIARG1901/index.html>



## OPTIONAL STOPOVER EXTENSION – ATACAMA DESERT

(5 NIGHTS : FEBRUARY 13 - 18, 2019)

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 neighbouring 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**, considered the archaeological capital of Chile, and ecotourism friendly Lauca National Park. The village of San Pedro de Atacama is located 1670 km north of Santiago and lies in the middle of the desert acting as a small cluster of civilization for tourists. The town has existed for 13,000 years, since the indigenous people of these lands gave birth to the Atacama culture, which celebrates life through color, dance and music that permeate every corner of this vast desert. This little oasis sits on the edge of the Salar de Atacama (Salt Lakes of Atacama) and is surrounded by the imposing La Sal and Domeyko mountain ranges, some of the highest peaks in the Andes. The Puritama, Purifica and Vilama rivers flow around the outskirts of San Pedro, forming majestic ravines and giving life to this desert oasis. Without them, San Pedro would be uninhabitable. The town offers abundant sights and activities including sand boarding and mountain biking. Its cobblestone streets are lined with adobe houses, ancestral churches, squares, craft stores, restaurants, bars and 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.

There will also be a **medical educational program** component to this extension which will include visiting a **local shaman** 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.

#### Day 14 – Feb 13 – Santiago (Airport hotel stopover)

Day 14 will be as per the main Chile program but at the end of the day 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, the gateway to the Atacama Desert, on February 14)

#### Day 15 – Feb 14 – 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.

En route, there will be a medical tour of **Hospital del Cobre (Copper hospital) in Calama - a hospital specializing in mining related and high altitude diseases.**

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 16 – Feb 15 – 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 Tulum 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 Quitur** 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 flamingos, 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 17 – Feb 16 – 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.



During the tour, there will also be a demonstration of local traditional healing techniques by a local shaman (therapy using drum sounds and local herbs).

Afterwards, return to San Pedro de Atacama.

Leisure time in the afternoon. Overnight in San Pedro.

#### Day 18 – Feb 17 – Calama – Santiago – Toronto (B)

After breakfast, some independent time to continue to explore San Pedro de Atacama before being transferred to Calama airport for your afternoon return flight to Santiago.

Overnight at airport hotel to be ready to for your morning flight from Santiago due to the fact that you it is an early morning flight from Santiago back to Toronto on Air Canada.

**Day 19 – Feb 18 (Mon) - Arrive back in Toronto**

Depart Santiago on international flight back to Toronto on Air Canada arriving in Toronto in the evening.

**The hotel bases...**

Santiago airport (2 nights)	Holiday Inn Santiago Airport (4*) <a href="https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/santiago/sclap/hoteldetail">https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/santiago/sclap/hoteldetail</a>
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San Pedro de Atacama (3 nights)	La Casa de Don Tomás (3.5*) <a href="https://www.dontomas.cl">https://www.dontomas.cl</a>
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In the unlikely event that a property needs to be changed it will be substituted with one of a similar standard.

**The price (to extend your stay...) Cdn \$1,620 / person**

**Pricing (exc. Insurance) / per person**

Per person (double occupancy)	<b>\$1,620</b>
Single person supplement	\$ 560
Transportation / hotel taxes and fees (per person)	\$ 315
Academic program registration fee (per MD registrant)	\$ inc in main program

Pricing above is subject to change due to the fluctuating costs of local airfares – booking your reservation ASAP, with an additional non-refundable deposit of \$250 guarantees the rates quoted above

**Included** in the price (Cdn\$1,620):

- Domestic flight from Santiago to Calama
- Modern, air conditioned coach transportation
- 4 nights hotel accommodation
- 5 breakfasts, 1 lunch
- Comprehensive daily itineraries including privately escorted tours

**Exclusions**

- Beverages (both soft drinks and alcoholic beverages)
- Gratuities
- 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** (as at August 2018)

An entry visa is not required for Canadian citizens but your passport must have an expiry date after the date of your scheduled departure date from each of Chile & Argentina.

As of January 1, 2018, Canadians will no longer need to pay a reciprocity fee for entry into Argentina..

### **Mandatory vaccinations** - none

A list of our full medical **recommendations** will be provided closer to departure – this will include up to date MMR, Hepatitis A/B and typhoid vaccinations.

## Travel insurance information... Coverage available through Manulife Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance to protect you against the unexpected 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 Inclusive 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.

**All-Inclusive 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.

**"Cancel for any reason (CFAR)" coverage - NEW and at no additional cost !!**

So long as you purchase **either of the two insurance policies above at the same time as your tour booking**, you are automatically entitled to this added benefit of CFAR coverage whereby, if you need to cancel your tour booking up to 14 days or more before departure **for any reason**, your policy will refund you up to a maximum of 50% of the cancellation penalties incurred. This is excellent peace of mind coverage to protect you against (50% of the) cancellation penalties incurred in a situation where the reason for cancellation is not one of the regular covered risks in your policy (ie it is essentially "change of mind" insurance).

Our insurance premiums (dependent upon your age at the time of purchasing insurance and your total tour costs) are below -

Total insurable costs (\$/person)	NON-MEDICAL INCLUSIVE								ALL-INCLUSIVE							
	Age>	0-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	0-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84
4000 - 4500	349	369	413	455	476	620	759	1,003	432	450	558	640	940	1,069	1,437	1,513
4500 - 5000	376	399	448	495	519	674	824	1,079	459	480	593	681	986	1,129	1,513	1,599
5000 - 5500	403	429	483	536	563	728	889	1,155	486	510	629	721	1,031	1,188	1,589	1,686
5500 - 6000	430	458	518	576	606	782	954	1,230	513	539	664	762	1,077	1,247	1,664	1,772
6000 - 6500	457	488	553	617	649	836	1,018	1,306	540	569	699	802	1,123	1,307	1,740	1,859
6500 - 7000	484	518	588	657	692	890	1,083	1,381	567	599	734	843	1,169	1,366	1,815	1,945
7000 - 7500	511	548	623	698	735	944	1,148	1,457	594	629	769	883	1,215	1,426	1,891	2,031
7500 - 8000	538	577	658	738	779	998	1,213	1,533	621	658	804	924	1,261	1,485	1,967	2,118
8000 - 8500	565	607	693	779	822	1,052	1,278	1,608	648	688	839	964	1,307	1,544	2,042	2,204
8500 - 9000	592	637	728	819	865	1,106	1,342	1,684	675	718	874	1,005	1,353	1,604	2,118	2,291
9000 - 9500	619	666	764	860	908	1,160	1,407	1,759	702	747	909	1,045	1,399	1,663	2,193	2,377
9500 - 10000	646	696	799	900	951	1,214	1,472	1,835	729	777	944	1,086	1,445	1,723	2,269	2,463
10000 - 10500	673	726	834	941	995	1,268	1,537	1,911	756	807	980	1,126	1,490	1,782	2,345	2,550
10500 - 11000	700	755	869	981	1,038	1,322	1,602	1,986	783	836	1,015	1,167	1,536	1,841	2,420	2,636
11000 - 11500	727	785	904	1,022	1,081	1,376	1,666	2,062	810	866	1,050	1,207	1,582	1,901	2,496	2,723
11500 - 12000	754	815	939	1,062	1,124	1,430	1,731	2,137	837	896	1,085	1,248	1,628	1,960	2,571	2,809
12000 - 12500	781	845	974	1,103	1,167	1,484	1,796	2,213	864	926	1,120	1,288	1,674	2,020	2,647	2,895
12500 - 13000	808	874	1,009	1,143	1,211	1,538	1,861	2,289	891	955	1,155	1,329	1,720	2,079	2,723	2,982
13000 - 13500	835	904	1,044	1,184	1,254	1,592	1,926	2,364	918	985	1,190	1,369	1,766	2,138	2,798	3,068
13500 - 14000	862	934	1,079	1,224	1,297	1,646	1,990	2,440	945	1,015	1,225	1,410	1,812	2,198	2,874	3,155
14000 - 14500	889	963	1,115	1,265	1,340	1,700	2,055	2,515	972	1,044	1,260	1,450	1,858	2,257	2,949	3,241
14500 - 15000	916	993	1,150	<b>1,305</b>	1,383	1,754	2,120	2,591	999	1,074	1,295	1,491	1,904	2,317	3,025	3,327

**For residents of Ontario**, simply accept your choice of insurance (Non-medical Inclusive or All-Inclusive coverage) on our *online* registration form and we will apply the premium above on your invoice confirmation (if using our *pdf* registration form, enter the applicable premium from the above table when completing the registration form)

**For residents of Canadian provinces other than Ontario**, insurance regulations state that travel insurance should be taken out directly with Manulife Insurance, albeit through the direct web-link below (this private link still allows you to take advantage of our preferred rates with Manulife) –

<https://www.igoinsured.com/Direct/ManulifeGlobal.aspx?ag=ONTOTPR&lang=E>

A detailed overview of coverage benefits and limitations of each insurance policy that we offer through Manulife may be found at -

[www.doctorsontour.ca/manulife-travelinsuranceguide.php](http://www.doctorsontour.ca/manulife-travelinsuranceguide.php)

### **Non Canadian residents**

For residents of countries outside of Canada (including the USA), insurance regulations allow us to sell “**Trip Cancellation**” insurance (this policy includes both trip cancellation and trip interruption coverage) coverage but not medical coverage. We do find that many of our overseas clients already have medical insurance through other channels and therefore, if this is the case, you may purchase “Trip Cancellation” coverage through our insurance partner, Manulife Insurance, through the direct web-link below (this private link still allows you to take advantage of our preferred rates with Manulife) –

<https://www.igoinsured.com/Direct/ManulifeGlobal.aspx?ag=ONTOTPR&lang=E>

## Testimonials...

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

"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

"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

"We had a great visit to the Falls. Stefani was a very helpful guide. The hotel and facilities were fabulous. The tour overall was an exciting experience. Thanks to you both and Ian for the hard work and planning.  
Drs. Hirsch and Indra Rastogi, Ancaster – Brazil, 2011

"In addition to exploring the fantastic sights 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

"We found this tour to be a wonderful adventure... even more than we had anticipated. The planning and attention to detail on the ground ensured we had a comprehensive introduction to the many wonders of Ecuador. I will definitely consider participating in another program and will be certain to share details with my colleagues"  
Dr. Alison Kelford, Oakville - Ecuador & the Galapagos, 2011

"The trip surpassed all my expectations. The country itself was far more interesting than I thought and the tour itself was very well organized. The wineries were a treat and the physicians and their spouses were lots of fun. I would be happy to do another trip! "

Dr. Steven Traplin, Guelph – Spain Gourmet tour, 2011

"Spain greatly surpassed my expectations, offering wonderful gastronomic experiences, lavished with outstanding wines and extremely hospitable people with a culture and history that is as rich as deep. Fernando Garcia, through his many connections, was able to allow us access to exclusive vineyards , where we were submerged in to the local cuisine and regaled with their finest wines".

Dr. Peter Bloch, Oakville – Spain Gourmet tour, 2011

"Our guide was excellent, enthusiastic and knowledgeable. Cooking classes were good and the hotels were excellent"

Dr. Barbara Flanagan, Charlottetown – Vietnam, Laos & Cambodia, 2012

"Excellent! Loved the trip and well worth it. Life changing experience, excellent speakers and very well organized. Met some great people and will keep in touch for future trips. Will definitely book another doctors-on-tour trip in the future"

Dr. Janel Gracey, London – Bali, 2012

"A quick personal note to tell you how much we enjoyed our trip to Spain & Portugal. The whole agenda was well planned and well carried out. The winery visits and dinners were amazing, we learned so much about the history and making of Port."

Dr. Blair Fraser, Guelph – Spain & Portugal, 2012

"We had a magical time in Machu Picchu - such a spiritual time at day break - our guide was great! Many thanks for the fabulous trip - memorable and well organized. Your company does such a great job and such an opportunity for us, and what a great group of people to share such an amazing trip with".

Dr. Paul Bates, London, On. – Ecuador & the Galapagos, Peru 2012

"A great idea to be able to combine the two countries in one visit as it allows one to compare and contrast. The chance to meet with local physicians in both private and public hospitals provided an opportunity to experience health care outside of Canada"

Dr. Edo Teku, Toronto - Chile, Argentina and Patagonia Cruise, 2012

"I have been fortunate to enjoy four trips with doctors-on-tour since 2009 - to Ecuador, Vietnam/Cambodia/Laos, India and Bali. All these tours were wonderful. Well-organized, excellent accommodations, top notch guides, remarkable CME experiences that broaden one's outlook on medicine and really great leaders of the tours. You should seriously consider taking one of these exotic trips. Beats lying on a beach!"

Dr. Linda Rapson, Toronto – 2013

"We enjoyed our extension to the UAE and saw an amazing amount in a short time. Our guide was very helpful, informative and pleasant and we appreciated how he was able to inform us about the country, it's people and customs. Excellent !"

Drs Christopher & Margaret Ibey, Parry Sound, On. – United Arab Emirates, 2013

"The whole trip was wonderful and very well organized. We appreciated the advance preparation information packages. The hotel accommodation was excellent and the guides provided a lot of background information in Indian culture and society which made the trip even more valuable as a learning experience. We enjoyed all of it – including meeting Dr. Peter, & Mary, Bloch (Group Medical Director) and the great people in the group!"

Dr. Ron Eliossoff, Ottawa - South India, 2013

"Excellent trip – hotels, guides, food and company and we saw such wonderful sites.

Dr. Martin and Eileen McIntyre, Brantford - Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos, 2013

"We had a wonderful trip. It was such an interesting mix of people that we laughed all the way through - an amazing experience and a fabulous time. The Pantanal was awesome and we also totally loved the old colonial town of Paraty. We enjoyed ourselves so much we are thinking of signing up for another one soon. Thanks again - you did a wonderful job - it was a dream".

Dyana Driscoll, Toronto – Brazil, 2013

"I was extremely pleased with my second trip through Doctors-on-Tour to Kenya & Tanzania - the tour was one of the most amazing things I have experienced!"

Dr. Kerri McGuire, Ottawa - Kenya & Tanzania, 2013

"Fantastic experience! Every detail to perfection."

Dr. Les Marien, Orangeville, On. - Spain Gourmet, 2013

"Had a great time! Very well organized"

Dr. Yusuf Januwala, Ipswich, Queensland, Australia - Ecuador (Galapagos) & Peru, 2013

"Our guide was amazing - so professional and knowledgeable. Great itinerary - Well done !"

Dr. Susan Smith, Frederickton, N.B - South Africa, 2014

"I want to give you some feedback on our amazing trip to South Africa. Our guide was exceptional; lunch at La Petite Ferme was a highlight, great food, wine and scenery; in Swaziland, glass factory was very good the candle factory was great; Kapama River (Game) Lodge - amazing ! Soweto - great ! South African Airlines were great to travel with friendly service and, overall, it was a great trip"

Dr. Steve and Marg Szarka, Hamilton, On. - South Africa, 2014

"We had a wonderful trip. Places we stayed during the tour were all very nice and every one had a good time. Your local tour manager was wonderful, extremely helpful and very well organized. Thanks again for all your help"

Dr. Kumar Banerjee, Vancouver, B.C. - South India, 2014

"We felt the tour is one of the best (CME tours) we have been on. We keep missing the great Chilean wines and Argentinian beef. Right sized group and great company. CME tours were interesting and informative. Our guides were good and I enjoyed learning about the country from their comments".

Dr. Eduardo Aenlle, Fallbrook, California - Chile, Argentina and Patagonia Cruise, 2014

"Let me commend your team for this most excellent adventure. And your group leaders for this tour, Lorna and Ashley (D'Silva) have done an amazing job - they deserve a tremendous vote of appreciation".

Dr. Fred Engle, Toronto, On. - Chile, Argentina and Patagonia Cruise, 2014

"Outstanding scenery, great guide, extensive geology and biology information provided".

Dr. David Cole, Toronto, On. - Chile & Argentina (Atacama Desert extension), 2014

"At the Concha y Toro vineyard, we had a deluxe tour involving a sit down tasting with a sommelier after the earlier tastings in the cellar. Another highlight was the small vineyard where we saw, picked and tasted the different grape varieties. Great trip!"

Dr. Tony Vettese, Mississauga, On. - Chile, Argentina and Patagonia Cruise, 2014

"It was an amazing trip thru Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos. It exceeded all our expectations. Our group leaders were gracious hosts. Their thirst for adventure and generosity of spirit added so much to our trip. The group we traveled with were a great bunch and we hope to cross paths in the future. The CMEs were informative and I enjoyed seeing the varied medical sites in each country"

Dr. Tom Stark, Timaru, New Zealand - Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos, 2014

"Macchu Picchu and Galapagos were the highlights. Wonderful guides, very well organized and enjoyable. Tour leader did a great job !"

Dr. Michael Garner, Montreal, QC - Ecuador (Galapagos) & Peru, 2014

"Our guide was absolutely fabulous - she took superb care of us and added so much to the trip through her knowledge of New Zealand history, flora and fauna. Peter and Mary (Bloch) were wonderful medical leaders - calm, helpful, interesting and vivacious- kudos to them."

Drs. Peter & Louise Bobechko, Toronto, On. - New Zealand, 2015

"Great trip and a wonderful extension - really worthwhile taking the time"

Dr. Alope De, Ottawa, On. - Chile & Argentina (inc. Atacama Desert extension), 2015

"I really enjoyed this tour - Rajasthan and Agra are beautiful. Our tour escort, Kumar, has great people skills, and has been very attentive to everyone's needs - Himanshu has been an excellent guide and is very knowledgeable. We would love to return to India on your South India program"

Dr. Rajalaxmi Wong, North Bay, On. - North India, 2015

"The trip to South Africa was awesome - I would rank it up there with my favorite so far with Doctors on Tour. The people in our group were wonderful - it was a total joy and I can see now why South Africa is one of your favorite destinations"

Dyana Driscoll, Toronto, On.- South Africa, 2015

"Bob and I enjoyed the time shared with each of you in Bali,  
My expectations for the tour were met and exceeded .It really was a small window into the Balinese culture.  
To (our group leaders) Bonnie and Mel, Thanks! Hope this isn't our last tour.  
You all were interesting and gracious, Terima Kasih. Salammat Jalan"

Dr. Bob & Evelyn Lawler, Gibsonia, PA - Bali 2015

"We had a fabulous experience, enjoying a fun group of travelers and loving the beautiful art and history of Spain. The warm, friendly and family culture feeling of Spain was memorable and a testimony to the connections of Chef Fernando Garcia".

Dr. Gerry Mittler, Vancouver, BC - Spain Gourmet 2015

"Thank you for your excellent guidance during our trip to Ecuador. the trip was very good, and the logistics and handling of the group were excellent"

Dr. David Spence, London, On - Ecuador (including the Galapagos and Amazon), 2015

"The trip was exceptional in every way. Our guide was more than just a tour guide - the knowledge she shared was detailed and interesting - what an ambassador for her country ! The high level of care that she offered was above and beyond anything that we have ever experienced. We thoroughly enjoyed every minute of this trip ! Thank you !"

Dr. Les Marien, Orangeville, On - New Zealand, 2016

"An enjoyable and enlightening tour"

Dr. Brian Davies, Sarnia, On. - China, 2016

"A great exposure to Balinese culture and the spiritual aspects behind their healing philosophy"

Dr. Karyn Klapecki, Toronto, On. - Bali, 2016

"Myanmar was very well organized and our guide was excellent - the best I have ever had! The sites and activities in Bhutan were very enjoyable and the local medical facilities and clinics that we visited as part of the CME were good"

Dr. Brenda Cholin, North Battleford, SK - Myanmar & Bhutan, 2017

"It was an incredible tour - we saw so much !"

Dr. Mo Meghji, Kitchener, On. - Argentina & Chile, including Patagonia cruise, 2017

"We had a wonderful time on the trip"

Dr. Mark Haberman, Concord, MA - Argentina & Chile, including Patagonia cruise, 2017

"This was a very good tour. The progress that the country has made over the years has been very significant. However, China still has multiple levels of Red Tape, both public and private that will not change ever, so it must be accepted. Overall a 9.5 out of 10 !"

Dr. Ted Erb, Waterloo, On. - China, 2017

"It was our first trip with your company. John and I loved it. The itinerary was perfect. Busy days followed by quieter ones. Lorna and Ashley were lovely and so capable! The coordination was superb. Thank you. We had the trip of a lifetime!"

Dr. John Gapski, Mississauga, On. – Ecuador & Galapagos, 2017

"Everything was excellent! We had a wonderful time. Hotels were superb. Thank you again for the well organized, all details worked out, great trip!"

Dr. Andrea Cordas, Burlington, On. – South India, 2017

"We really enjoyed traveling with an interesting group of professionals which gave us the opportunity to visit places where the public normally does not have easy entry. Excellent pre-departure information and the tour was well-balanced with a mixture of historic and social highlights, while travelling through very different landscapes and areas of the country. The public/private health care system was well described on the Groote Schuur Hospital tour and the children's' song and dance performance at SOS children's village in Cape Town was touching. Our local tour guide was outstanding [5+++] and provided excellent context for the political, economic and social aspects of SA. He was calm, professional, responded quickly to everyone's needs and was very proud of his country".

Helle & Tony Tosine, Toronto, On. – South Africa, 2017

"We really enjoyed New Zealand and the services provided by your company. The Academic Conference presentations were top caliber and contained information useful to both the specialist and generalist. I enjoyed getting to know and learning from the other group participants. We would recommend this trip and plan to travel with Doctors on Tour again".

Dr. John Britt, Winston-Salem, NC - New Zealand, 2018

"We enjoyed our trip very much. The hotels we stayed in were superb, the itinerary was great and the guides, both in Bhutan and in Myanmar, were fabulous. Overall it was a wonderful, memorable trip. Thank you very much!"

Dr. Sabine Ernsting, Adelaide, South Australia - Bhutan & Myanmar, 2018

"So many highlights – favorites include Cape of Good Hope, Table Mountain, Kapama Game Reserve – because of excellent game rangers and trackers – saw the big 5 and so much more. Deon – excellent!!! Bus drivers also excellent. Coaches comfortable – great bonus to be able to charge cell phones inside buses. Bottom line – Awesome experience!!"

Dr. Cinda Lee, Toronto, ON - South Africa, 2018

#### **And about your Group Leaders and Medical Director, Dr. Steve, and Marg, Szarka**

"Steve and Marg were great tour leaders"

Mary Nelson (Pharmacist), Ancaster, Ontario - Ecuador & the Galapagos (and Peru), 2016

"Steve and Marg were wonderful leaders – competently handled any issues that arose and were very supportive of the group members"

Dr. Xenia Kirkpatrick, Toronto, On. – Eastern Europe, 2017

"Thanks to Marg and Steve for their kindness, help and leadership"

Dr. Chantal Breton - Eastern Europe, 2017



Doctors-on- Tour – Ecuadorian Amazon



Doctors-on-Tour - India



Doctors-on-Tour – Spain



Doctors-on-Tour - Chile & Argentina



Doctors-on-Tour – South East Asia



Doctors-on-Tour – China

## The fine print...

The Terms & Conditions contained herein are the terms under which Doctors-on-Tour and on-Tour (being operating brands of Britcan International Consulting (B.I.C.) Inc. and together, for the purposes of these Terms & Conditions, being referred to collectively as DOT/OT/BIC) 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 and cruise cabins. A guaranteed non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person (\$700 per person for programs which include a cruise component), together with the applicable travel insurance premium, is required with your reservation request. Tour extensions and, where applicable, seat upgrades in aircraft cabin categories higher than economy, are also subject to additional non-refundable deposits as detailed in each specific program's brochure. Reservations made for travel within 95 days (105 days for programs which include a cruise component) of the travel date 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 at the time of your booking confirmation.

**FINAL AND/OR BALANCE DUE PAYMENT:** Guaranteed payment of all balances due is no later than 95 days (105 days for programs which include a cruise component) 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. We do accept any other kinds of cards, including either American Express or Diners Club. Your online authorization by way of our Online Registration Form acts as your approval for the credit card provided as part of your registration to be charged for both the initial deposit (and travel insurance premium, where applicable) 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 current or future electronic mail communication). For registrations that are not received via our Online Registration Form, but instead are forwarded to DOT/OT/BIC by mailing, faxing or e-mailing a scanned completed copy of our (non-online) Registration Form, your signature on such (non-online) Registration Form verifies your approval for your credit card to be charged. No services will be provided without receipt of either the authorized Online Registration Form or the duly signed (non-online) Registration 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 and non-transferable. Cancellation penalties for bookings cancelled by the client after the final balance due date (95 days before departure; 105 days before departure for programs which include a cruise component) are as follows: 95 – 61 (105 - 61 days for programs which include a cruise component) 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. Bookings are non-transferable. There will be no refund for unused land arrangements after departure from North America. In the event of the cancellation by DOT/OT/BIC of any or all components of the travel services offered herein, DOT/OT/BIC 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 confirmation.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** To protect against cancellation charges, we strongly recommend purchasing Cancellation Protection and Travel Interruption Insurance. 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 DOT/OT/BIC through Manulife 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 for all destinations offered with the exception of New Zealand, Spain/Portugal and countries on our Eastern Europe program where the passport must remain valid for a minimum of 3 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 (or, in some cases, a reciprocity fee) is required for entry into the following destinations offered by DOT/OT/BIC -

- Bhutan, Brasil, China, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Tanzania, Vietnam (tourist entry visa, or a visa pre-approval letter in some cases, must be obtained prior to departure from Canada)
- Cambodia, Laos, Zambia (tourist entry visa may be obtained upon arrival in the destination)
- For entry into Argentina, a reciprocity fee is payable (this must be paid prior to leaving Canada)

A tourist entry visa is not required for entry into Bali (Indonesia), Ecuador, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, Spain and any country on our Eastern Europe program.

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:** We use a variety of accommodations on our programs with many of our properties specifically chosen to reflect the local style and culture of the region. Our rating system reflects the majority of the accommodations throughout each program but some variety can occur. Ratings are based not only on room quality but also on facilities and location. Accommodation ratings in overseas destinations outside of Canada are an arbitrary measure and their definition from country to country can differ slightly as well as not always being consistent between individual properties in that particular destination nor are they necessarily comparable to an equivalent rating in North America. Rooms are assigned by the respective supplier(s) on a run-of-the-house basis, in category (ies) as specified in the itinerary and the right is reserved to substitute properties/hotels/lodges/camps/cruise/ships as conditions warrant such change for reasons beyond our control. Accommodations on twin occupancy basis, is provided at the properties/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.

**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 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 DOT/OT/BIC 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 to us by separate e-mail 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:** DOT/OT/BIC are 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 it's 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 DOT/OT/BIC who bear no responsibility for such illness or inconvenience. DOT/OT/BIC 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:** DOT/OT/BIC 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 :** DOT/OT/BIC 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 / cruise ship described in this brochure is not available we reserve the right to provide an alternate hotel / lodge / cruise ship 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.

DOT/OT/BIC 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 DOT/OT/BIC. 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 DOT/OT/BIC. 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. DOT/OT/BIC can assume no responsibility for lost tickets or coupons. The liability of DOT/OT/BIC 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.