

Skorpios Cruise Patagonia Chonos Cruise



northern Patagonia – San Rafael Glacier – Chilean fjords
Chiloé Grande - stunning landscapes – enormous icefields – cultural
interaction – relaxed atmosphere – great food – comfortable cabins

Cruise the fjords of northern Patagonia to the stunning San Rafael Glacier.

Explore stunning and varied landscapes with time to stop and visit the people who live in this remote part of Chile.

Get close to the glacier on board the only purpose built ice class ship.

Enjoy delicious food, great guides and a relaxed, fun multi-national atmosphere.

This is a Pura *handpicked* holiday with an activity rating of *low* and a comfort rating *first*.



The Skorpios II ship in front of the San Rafael Glacier.



"Skorpios was brilliant. Perfect weather, incredible scenery, great people and delicious food. What more could you want?" Pat B

Holiday Itinerary



A Skorpios cruise cabin



Discover Puerto Aguirre in the company of the locals.

Saturday | Skorpios II | set sail

Set sail from Puerto Montt, a port city 1,000km south of Chile's capital Santiago.

Over the next six days you will sail some 800 nautical miles through the magnificent channels, archipelagos and fjords of northern Patagonia.

The destination is the enormous and beautiful San Rafael glacier but in truth there are lots of highlights.

The first part of your journey takes you from Puerto Montt around the island of Chiloé Grande.

If the weather is clear you should enjoy fantastic views of the snow capped volcanoes which dot the horizon.

With luck you will also be able to spot dolphins and perhaps even whales in the gulf.

Skorpios II was totally remodeled in 2008. She has 56 cabins spread over five decks. All cabins have lower beds and private bathrooms.

The Chilean owners of Skorpios actually own the shipyard in Puerto Montt.

The boat was built, some 35 years ago, specifically to take people through the waters of northern Patagonia.

In particular, she is the only boat properly equipped to pass through the ice meaning you get closer to the glaciers than is possible on any other vessel.

Whilst on board you have all meals included as well as all of your drinks.

The only extra costs you need to factor in are tips. (l,d)

Questions? Ready to book? Call us on **01273 676 712**

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In front of the San Rafael Glacier.



Luminescent ice formations of the San Rafael Glacier.



The remote and beautiful Quitalco Fjord.

Sunday | Skorpios II | **visit a village**

One of the things which marks Skorpios out from other cruises to San Rafael is the fact that you don't just see the landscapes, you also interact with the people.

Late this morning you arrive in the quiet fishing village of Puerto Aguirre.

Disembark to be guided around the village by the locals, they always come out to meet the boat.

There is nothing forced about the interaction, the boat is the community's supply line so people are genuinely pleased to see the boat.

The children are also always more than happy to show you round and practice their English.

There is usually a remarkable variety of nationalities on board but the bulk of the passengers will likely be Chilean, Argentinian or Brazilian.

Spanish is the lingua franca but announcements and information is also given in English.

Set sail again this afternoon to weigh anchor just a few miles short of the San Rafael Lagoon. (b,l,d)

Monday | Skorpios II | **to San Rafael**

On this, your third day on board, you cross the San Rafael Lagoon.

If the weather allows, you will get into the expedition boats to explore the iceberg filled lagoon.

What makes San Rafael so striking is the luminous blue of the ice.

In layman's terms, glacial ice is blue because the oxygen is squashed out and the passage of light is not interrupted by bubbles.

The thicker the ice, the more blue it will appear at the bottom where it is most compressed.

In the case of the San Rafael Glacier, the vertical face of the ice is around 60m above the water but there is a further 250m or so underwater.

This massive wall of ice means that the bottom-most ice is incredibly compressed, therefore a luminous blue.

As the glacier edges forwards and icebergs calve off the front face, they bob up to the surface glowing.

Back on board the ship, you move as close as possible to the face of the glacier.

At the end of the day set off on your journey back north towards Puerto Montt again.

On board Skorpios all of your food is prepared from scratch on board, nothing is pre-cooked. Even the bread is baked fresh for you each day.

Meals are not fancy but they are made using the best, freshest ingredients. It is unsurprising that the food is often mentioned as a highlight. (b,l,d)

Tuesday | Skorpios II | **sail to Quitalco fjord**

This morning berth at the Quitalco pier.

This remote, beautiful fjord is owned by Skorpios which means that it is for the exclusive use of passengers.

That is to say that nobody else visits except Skorpios II passengers once a week, and even that is only during the summer season.

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Why choose Skorpios II?

There are lots of good reasons to choose Skorpios over another boat to visit San Rafael but one reason really stands out above the rest: ice.

Assuming that you are going on a cruise through the fjords of northern Patagonia to San Rafael Glacier with the intention of seeing ice, then Skorpios II is the best choice for you.

Skorpios II is the only ship specifically designed and built for these waters with an ice-strengthened hull.

The lagoon in front of the San Rafael Glacier is 12km long. It is often full of icebergs.

Where other boats have to stop at the edge of the icebergs, Skorpios II can carry on to get right up to the glacier itself.



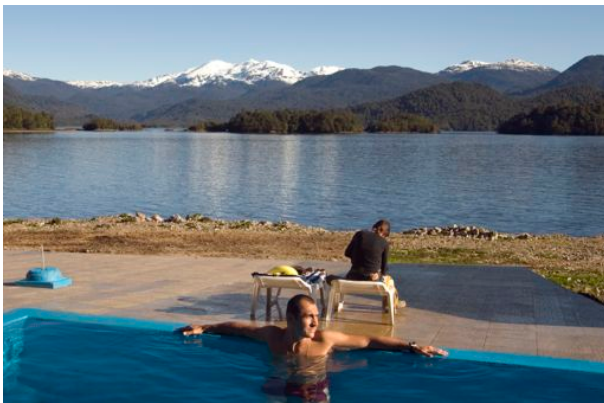
The landing vessels on Skorpios II are the only ones with a roof and a toilet.

This might sound silly but if you go to San Rafael Lagoon and there are lots of icebergs in the water (which there usually are) on a boat other than Skorpios II you might find yourself 2km from the face.

If you then get into the zodiac to explore the waters, you have to travel slowly around the icebergs. It is only so long before someone is going to need to head back on board to go to the bathroom.

This limits your excursions in amongst the ice to probably around an hour, in which time you simply will not get to the face of the glacier.

Travelling on Skorpios II means that not only does the ship get closest to the face of San Rafael Glacier, the excursion boats are also able to stay out for as long as conditions permit.



Relax in the 32C warm bath in Quirralco.

Suffice to say that it is a pristine and beautiful landscape.

Enjoy a soak in hot springs at the edge of the fjord.

If the weather allows to, there will be boat excursions in motorboats through the inside of the fjord to look for sea lions and other marine mammals.

There are also pathways into the rainforest to explore.

Lunch is a typical Patagonian *asado* or barbecue.

This afternoon set sail towards the island of Chiloé Grande, watch the beautiful scenery slip by. (b,l,d)

Wednesday | Skorpios II | land in Castro

This morning you cross the Corcovado Gulf which could be your chance to see humpback and even blue whales.

As you arrive in the beautiful estuary of Castro, capital of Chiloé Grande, first settled by the *Chonos* people.

Visit the town of Castro, the most important in the archipelago, rich in history, legends and culture.

At 10pm set sail on your last short leg towards Puerto Montt while the captain's dinner and an often lively farewell party brings an end to your adventure. (b,l,d)

Thursday | Puerto Montt | disembark

Dock in Puerto Montt this morning to disembark after breakfast. (b)



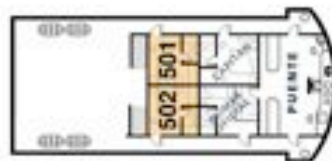
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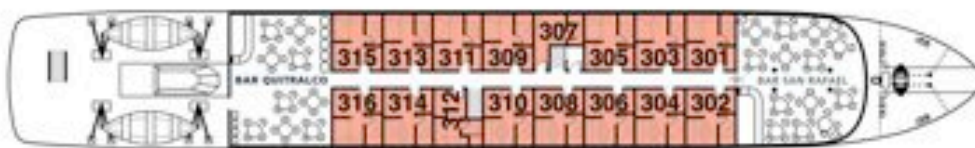
MOTONAVE SKORPIOS II



CUBIERTA ATHOS / ATHOS DECK



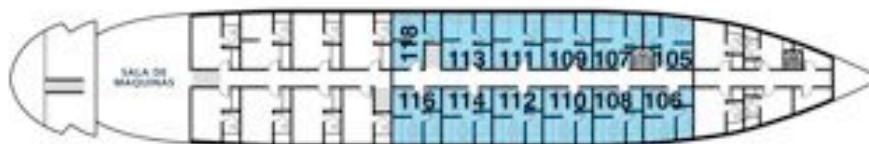
CUBIERTA OLYMPTO / OLYMPUS DECK



CUBIERTA PARTHENON / PARTHENON DECK



CUBIERTA ACROPOLIS / ACROPOLIS DECK



CUBIERTA ATENAS / ATHENS DECK

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Cabin 110 on Atenas deck – each bed is a narrow double, no window.



Cabin 205 on Acropolis deck – each bed is a narrow double



Cabin 401, a master suite with king sized bed, on Olympo deck



Cabin 502 on Athos deck with double bed.

How comfortable?

The M/V Skorpios II, completely remodeled en 2008, offers 56 cabins spread over five decks, all with lower beds and private bathroom.

There are various options for quadruple and triple cabins so if you are a family group, do ask for details.

The size of double cabins varies little between decks.

On the Atenas deck cabins have no windows. On the Acropolis and Parthenon decks cabins have windows and lead into an internal passageway. On the Olympo and Athos decks cabins lead to the outside.

For our pricing we assume that you stay on the Acropolis deck pictured second image down on the left.

What's on board?

The M/V Skorpios II provides four meals a day and open bar service.

The dining room is large enough to seat all passengers in a single sitting.

There are spacious decks from which to enjoy the landscapes as well as a bridge that remains open to visiting passengers.

When should I go?

The best time of year to visit Patagonia is September to April. You are likely to experience cold evenings and mornings but mild daytime temperatures.

The proximity of the Andes means that it quickly gets cold at night. Be prepared for rainfall.

How active?

On board the boats you nature walks to full-day treks are fairly limited in the amount of activity you can do but there are shore excursions on a regular basis.

Not based in the UK?

We are very happy to discuss your requirements if you are not travelling to and from the UK.

Please call us on +44 1273 676 712 between 9am and 6.30pm weekdays.

Prices & departures

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 2011 | Saturdays £1,175pp low season Saturdays £1,350pp high season |
| Seasons | Skorpios II sets sail every Saturday from September through April. High season is the second half of December through to the end of February. Everything else is low. |
| Price includes | Accommodation in a standard twin cabin on Atenas deck; Entrances, guiding, excursions and activities as above; 5 night Skorpios II cruise; All meals and drinks. |
| Not included | Port taxes (us\$12) or tips. |
| Upgrades | Please call us to discuss upgrade options. As an indicator, the master suite in high season costs £1,775pp. |

Prices are per person based on two sharing

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