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## GEEO ITINERARY

Chile and Argentina 6/30/2024

### **Day 1: Santiago Arrive in Santiago at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.**

Arrive in Santiago at any time. Due to the potential for flight delays or cancellations, we recommend that you plan to arrive in South America at least a day in advance. This will also give you time to rest and adjust to any time difference. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Santiago before and/or after the trip. Please note that check-in at the hotel is usually around 2:00-3:00 p.m. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another. Santiago is Chile's largest city and capital, with internationally recognized vineyards and Andean ski resorts nearby. See our optional activities section further below for some ideas on what to do with your free time.

### **Day 2: Santiago/Valparaíso (B) Explore some of Santiago's neighborhoods on a city tour, visit the Museum of Memory, and try some local specialties. After, transfer to the seaside town of Valparaíso where brightly colored houses are perched on the hills.**

We spend the day visiting different neighborhoods of Santiago, stop at the Museo de la Memoria to learn about the history of Chile, and visit the Central Market to enjoy a traditional Chilean snack before heading to a local bar to try Terremoto (Earthquake), a local drink made with pineapple ice cream, white wine, and pisco. We then depart for the colorful seaside town of Valparaíso. The Historic Quarter is on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Approximate travel time: 2.5 hrs by local bus

### **Day 3: Valparaíso/Santiago (B) Spend the morning in Valparaíso, and then travel to the Casablanca Valley, stopping at a winery along the way. Head back to Santiago and board an overnight bus to Pucón.**

Enjoy a free morning in Valparaíso and take in the 19th-century Latin architecture and the brightly-colored buildings built into the hillside. Later, head to the Casablanca Valley, where we will visit nearby wineries to learn about the wine-making process, tour the vineyards, and try a sample or two. Afterward, head back to Santiago with free time before boarding an overnight bus to Pucón. The seats on the overnight bus recline partially. It is possible to upgrade to seats that recline fully (180 degrees) for \$30 USD. We will share more details with the group approximately 90 days prior to departure. Approximate travel time: 1.5-2 hrs by private vehicle (Valparaíso to Santiago); 8 hrs by overnight bus (Santiago to Pucón)

### **Day 4: Pucón Enjoy free time in Pucón to hike Villarica, try whitewater rafting, or explore the area by foot.**

Today, you have a free day to explore Pucón and its surrounding region. There's plenty to see and do in Pucón, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like hiking Villarica Volcano, whitewater rafting, or relaxing in thermal baths. Skiing may be possible too. See our optional activities section further below for some ideas on what to do with your free time.

### **Day 5: Pucón (B) Enjoy more free time in Pucón. Opt to soak in the nearby natural thermal pools.**

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Today is another day in which to enjoy more free time for the many activities on offer in Pucón.

**Day 6: Pucón/San Carlos de Bariloche (B) Cross the Andes to Argentina. Travel by local bus to San Martin and transfer to a private vehicle for the rest of the journey to Bariloche, stopping in the Seven Lake District. Enjoy a free evening in Bariloche.**

This morning, we cross the Andes and enter Argentina by local bus. In San Martin, we transfer to a private vehicle for the rest of the trip to Bariloche, stopping for photos in the Seven Lake district. In the evening, you can enjoy a free evening in this beautiful waterfront town of Bariloche. Approximate travel time: 6 hrs by local bus (Pucón to San Martin); 4 hrs by private vehicle (San Martin to Bariloche)

**Day 7: San Carlos de Bariloche (B, L) Transfer to a Gaucho Ranch just outside of Bariloche. Enjoy a barbecue lunch. Take a horseback ride with a Gaucho by your side.**

This morning, we transfer to a Gaucho Ranch just outside of Bariloche, where you will have the opportunity to be a Argentinian Gaucho for the day. Immerse yourself in the culture of these traditional Patagonia cowboys. We will take an easy horseback ride through the beautiful scenery of Bariloche and learn about the area's history from a real live Gaucho. Stop along the way to try Mate, the national beverage of Argentina, and some alfajores, a delicious dulce de leche cookie sandwich. Finish it all off with a traditional Patagonian barbecue.

**Day 8: San Carlos de Bariloche (B) Enjoy the beautiful area of the Seven Lakes District. Take a hike in the countryside or wander the town, known for its shops and artisan chocolate.**

Today, we enjoy a free day in the beautiful area of the Seven Lakes District. Take the opportunity to hike around the countryside or wander through the town, which is known for its shops and, in particular, its artisan chocolate. Skiing may be possible too. See our optional activities section further below for some ideas on what to do with your free time.

**Day 9: San Carlos de Bariloche/Buenos Aires (B) Fly to Buenos Aires. Opt to enjoy a tango dinner show, take a city tour, or enjoy free time to explore the many neighborhoods and museums.**

Today, we fly to Buenos Aires, where you will have the day free to explore the city after we arrive. Perhaps you might want to take an optional city tour and visit the districts of La Boca, Recoleta, and San Telmo. Alternatively, catch a tango show at one of the many famous tanguerías and/or wander the pedestrian walkways and see some dancing in the streets. Whatever you do, Buenos Aires is sure to leave lasting memories. When you are done exploring, settle your weary feet and enjoy a drink in one of the many sidewalk cafés and restaurants, and you will begin to understand the contemplative Argentine way of life. Since Buenos Aires will be your last chance to try the succulent beef, chicken, and chorizo parrilladas, dig in and enjoy! See our optional activities section further below for some ideas on what to do with your free time. Approximate travel time: 1.5 hrs by plane

**Day 10: Buenos Aires (B) Depart Buenos Aires at any time.**

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Buenos Aires at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Buenos Aires, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEE0 programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEE0 will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEE0 program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their

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tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book.