Patagonia Field Seminar

September 9 to 25, 2016

“I thought this trip was something of a miracle—amazing places, great people, wonderful hotels and different modes of travel—and no problems!”

Carol Burket, ’67, MA ’74, Patagonia Expedition, 2014
Spend three days on campus with Professor Bill Durham, ‘71, before traveling to Buenos Aires where our Patagonia adventure begins. Unlike other Travel/Study trips, on Field Seminars Stanford sophomores travel alongside our Travel/Study group. Learn from the students’ presentations and participate in lively intellectual exchanges during daily discussions. Visit Puerto Madryn at the height of whale watching season and observe hundreds of sea birds, penguins, seals and sea lions as well. Spend two full days in Torres del Paine National Park and marvel at its breathtaking views. Sight spectacular wildlife as we cruise the Beagle Channel off the coast of Ushuaia, the “southernmost city in the world.”
Faculty Leader

Professor William Durham, ’71, past chair of the department of anthropological sciences at Stanford is an innovative teacher and administrator whose primary interests are ecology and evolution, the interactions of genetic and cultural change in human populations, and the challenges to conservation and community development in the tropics. Bill has long had a special interest in Patagonia, in part because the region so influenced the young Charles Darwin through its flora, fauna, and fossils, and in part because of its spectacular parks and conservation areas (all topics of lectures during this program). Among many Travel/Study trips Bill has led to South America, he has led previous trips to Patagonia, including Tierra del Fuego and the Beagle Channel, and has taught at the Stanford Program in Chile. Professor Durham believes that educational travel is one of the most enriching experiences one can have.

- Joined the Stanford University faculty in 1977
- Currently the Bing Professor in Human Biology and the Yang and Yamazaki University Fellow
- Recipient of the Bing Fellow Award and a MacArthur Prize fellowship

“The connection with the fabulous students and with Professor Durham made this alum and current public school teacher so inspired and appreciative of the overall Stanford experience.”

Mary Stroube Adams ’64, Amazon Field Seminar, 2013
Itinerary

Friday, September 9
Home / Stanford
Depart from your home and gather this evening on the Stanford campus with students and fellow travelers for a Welcome reception and dinner, followed by an orientation. (D)

Saturday, September 10
Stanford
Return to campus for the day and enjoy lectures and group seminars this morning and afternoon. Lunch will be served in an on-campus residential dining hall. Dinner is on your own. (B,L)

Sunday, September 11
Stanford
Gather for on-campus seminars today that will include time with the students. Enjoy lunch as a group at the residential dining hall before the discussions continue. The late afternoon and evening are on your own for any last-minute trip preparation. (B,L)

Monday & Tuesday, September 12 & 13
Stanford / SFO / Buenos Aires, Argentina
Travel from Stanford to the San Francisco International Airport this morning for flights to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Upon arrival on Tuesday, meet our guides and transfer to our hotel. After some time at leisure and lunch on our own, take a guided tour of the highlights of this cosmopolitan city. Gather with fellow travelers this evening to enjoy presentations by the Stanford students, followed by cocktails, dinner and a tango dance performance at our hotel. LOI SUITES RECOLETA HOTEL (D)

Wednesday, September 14
Buenos Aires / Puerto Madryn
Continue our exploration of Buenos Aires this morning. Visit striking and diverse neighborhoods, including the Plaza de Mayo, Buenos Aires’ main square with its neo-classical cathedral, colonial townhall and presidential palace, known as the “Casa Rosada” for its pink walls. Following lunch at a local restaurant tour the neighborhoods of San Telmo with its narrow, cobblestoned streets, La Boca with its multicolored tin houses and soccer stadium, elegant Barrio Norte, and Palermo with its wonderful parks, monuments and stately mansions. Transfer to the airport late this afternoon for our flight to Puerto Madryn and enjoy a late dinner at our hotel upon arrival. PENINSULA VALDES HOTEL (B,L,D)

Thursday, September 15
Puerto Madryn
From Puerto Madryn, travel to Peninsula Valdes, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and look for its magnificent inhabitants such as southern elephant seals, southern sea lions and a breeding colony of right whales. Return to Puerto Madryn and board a catamaran chartered for our group to enjoy spectacular whale watching. Travel to Estancia San Lorenzo, a local sheep farm, for lunch. Estancia San Lorenzo is located on the coast of Golfo San Matias, where a colony of Magellan Penguins makes its home. Walk among them on the beach, and look for seals and sea birds. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before returning to our hotel. PENINSULA VALDES HOTEL (B,L,D)
Friday, September 16
Puerto Madryn / El Calafate
Transfer to the airport after breakfast this morning for our flight to El Calafate. Located in the middle of the steppe and constantly exposed to the southern wind, El Calafate is one of the Argentina’s most visited destinations for its spectacular outlying attractions: The Perito Moreno Glacier and Glaciares National Park. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel, where the rest of the day and dinner is on our own. IMAGO HOTEL AND SPA (B)

Saturday, September 17
El Calafate / Puerto Punta Bandera / Estancia Cristina
After an early-morning breakfast, transfer to Puerto Punta Bandera to board a boat for an all-day excursion to Estancia Cristina. Weave through a labyrinth of icebergs with different hues of blue and navigate to the western front of Upsala Glacier. Continue along Cristina Channel into one of the most fascinating and remote Patagonian Valleys looking for Patagonian Condors. Upon arrival at the historic and remote Estancia Cristina disembark, enjoy lunch and visit the small historical museum, then continue in 4 X 4 vehicles for a magnificent view of the Upsala Glacier and the Southern Patagonian Ice Field.

Return to Puerto Punta Bandera for dinner, then return to our hotel. IMAGO HOTEL AND SPA (B,L,D)

Sunday, September 18
El Calafate / Perito Moreno Glacier
Following breakfast, grab a boxed lunch and travel to the Perito Moreno Glacier for a hike. As we listen to the sounds of the glacier moving and cracking, learn about the natural history of the area and take in the magnificent scenery. Return to our hotel and later enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. IMAGO HOTEL AND SPA (B,L,D)

Monday, September 19
El Calafate / Puerto Natales, Chile
Depart our hotel after breakfast for our trip to Puerto Natales, where we will spend the next three nights. Puerto Natales is a small fishing town considered to be the gateway to Torres del Paine. When founded in the early 1900s Puerto Natales was quite prosperous due to the sheep farming industry and boasted a bustling meat packing plant that packaged and shipped meat primarily to Europe. Stop along the way to enjoy lunch, before arriving at our lodge where we can enjoy breathtaking views of Torres del Paine, located an hour away. Dinner is at the hotel this evening. REMOTA LODGE (B,L,D)

Tuesday & Wednesday, September 20 & 21
Torres del Paine
Towering above the immense Patagonian steppe, the spectacular granite pillars of Torres del Paine dominate the landscape. Torres del Paine National Park covers 181,000 hectares. There are many hiking paths that cross widely differing types of terrain, such as steppes and thick Magellanic subpolar forests, and run along lakes with huge glaciers and icebergs. For the next two days explore Torres del Paine from our lodge, which offers a variety of hikes and other activities. REMOTA LODGE (B,L,D both days)

Thursday, September 22
Puerto Natales / El Calafate, Argentina / Ushuaia
Depart our lodge this morning and travel back to El Calafate for our flight to Ushuaia. Ushuaia lies on the southern coast of Tierra del Fuego, on the Beagle Channel. It carries the mystique of being the ‘southernmost city in the world’. The town nestles at the base of the Martial Mountains on the north side of Ushuaia Bay, facing south toward a lovely view of rugged mountains and islands. Upon arrival transfer to our hotel for dinner. LOS CAUQUENES RESORT & SPA (B,L,D)
Friday, September 23
Ushuaia / Lapataia Bay National Park / Beagle Channel
Travel to Lapataia Bay National Park this morning for hiking and exploration. Spot a variety of sea birds as we hike along the bay. Return to Ushuaia following lunch at the park, and board a privately-chartered boat for an exploration cruise along the Beagle Channel. While cruising, admire the sight of the mountain range that surrounds the city. Pass the Isla de los Lobos and Isla de los Pájaros, part of the Bridges Archipelago, and spot sea lions, cormorants, albatrosses, skuas, petrels and seagulls. Travel past the famous lighthouse Les Eclaireurs and the Estancia Túnel, a historic site on the northern shore. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before returning to our hotel. LOS CAUQUENES RESORT & SPA (B,L,D)

Saturday & Sunday, September 24 & 25
Ushuaia / El Calafate / Buenos Aires / U.S.
Travel to Ushuaia airport following breakfast this morning for our flight to Buenos Aires and enjoy our farewell lunch at a local restaurant. Transfer to the international airport this afternoon for overnight flights to the U.S. (B,L)

What to Expect
All participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We consider this expedition to be an active program with long periods of travel to remote locations that can be strenuous and tiring. On average, daily programs involve one to five miles of walking or hiking, often on uneven terrain. Significant walking and climbing of stairs may also be required in many hotels and airports. Some days require early morning starts and have a full schedule of excursions and lectures. Flight times range from 1 hour, 15 minutes to three and-a-half hours, and participants must be able to board and exit aircraft by stairs, if necessary. Drive times range from 30 minutes to six hours, sometimes over uneven terrain. Our three-night stay in Torres del Paine is in a very remote location, where medical services are not easily accessible. Travelers are encouraged to evaluate the rigors of this itinerary with their own health status before considering this program.
Information

Dates
September 9 to 25, 2016 (17 days)

Size
This program can accommodate 26 alumni participants and 16 student participants. Single accommodations are limited; please call for availability.

Cost*
$9,395 per person, double occupancy  
$10,595 per person, single occupancy  
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

Included
- 11 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations  
- 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches and 11 dinners  
- Welcome and farewell receptions  
- 4 flights within Argentina and Chile  
- Gratuities to porters, guides, waiters and drivers for all group activities  
- All tours as described in the itinerary  
- Group transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days  
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance  
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information  
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

Not Included
- International airfare from the U.S. to Buenos Aires, Argentina  
- Passport and visa fees  
- Immunization costs  
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included  
- Independent and private transfers  
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance  
- Excess-baggage charges  
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Air Arrangements
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on United Airlines from San Francisco to Buenos Aires is approximately $1,100 as of August 2015 and is subject to change without notice.
Terms and Conditions

Deposit and Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?patagonia2016 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations and Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the member’s price. Families and trip companions may travel on one membership. Call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership for more information or to purchase a membership.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in August 2015 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

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Visit us online to reserve space:

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Stanford Travel/Study is a program of the Stanford Alumni Association