

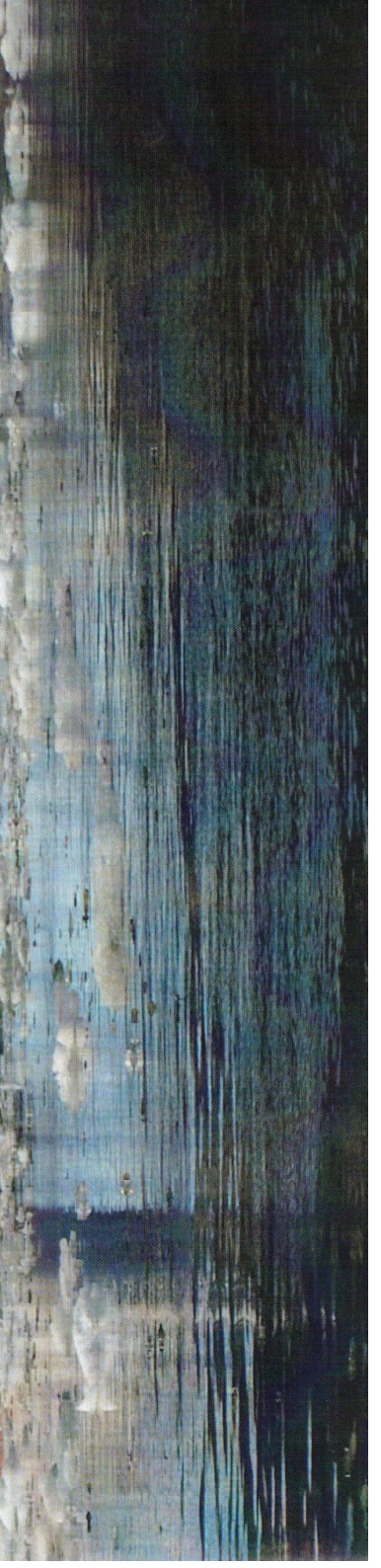
A man with blonde hair is lying in a hammock, reading a book. The hammock is strung between two large trees. In the background, there is a calm blue lake, green hills, and snow-capped mountains under a clear sky. Several large, semi-transparent white stars are overlaid on the image, particularly in the upper half. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

**placeres** Chile

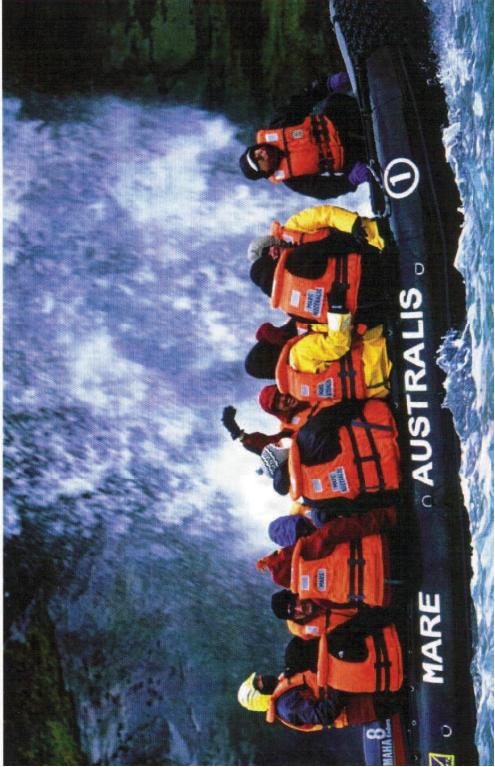
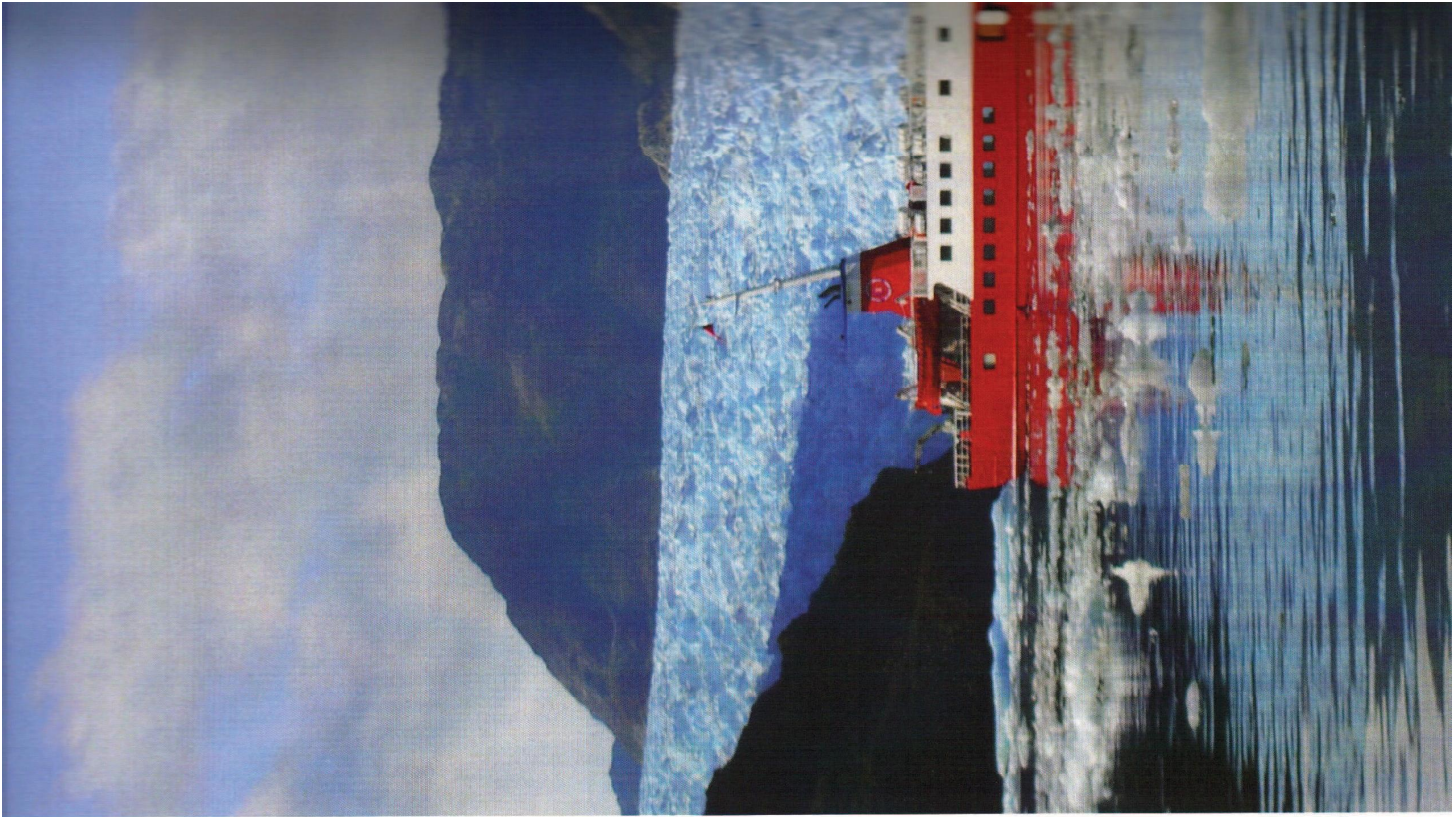


# Glaciers Cruise ships in the southern world

Cruising with an open bar, plentiful meals, and a great wine list is the basis for the cruises to the southern Patagonian ice fields where true pleasure is found in contemplating the impressive natural beauty.









Chile is a country of ocean and ice. Its geography has turned it into a favorite destination for the most diverse cruise companies which operate in its waters, mainly south of Puerto Montt.

Pioneers in the zone, the Kochifa family, operators of the Skorpio Cruise Ships, maintain the family spirit in each one of the routes they have been developing out of Puerto Montt. Today there is an unusual interest in the eternal ice, which due to climatic changes, scientists predict will never be the

same again. It is possible that within a few decades the melting of the glaciers may change the landscape. The offer has multiplied in the zone. These days there are many choices of cruise ships to visit this unique area.

Cruceros Skorpio, for example, are pioneers in local pleasure cruises. With most of the family involved in the business, you can see their touch in everything from breakfast to the goodbye party at the end of the classic cruise to the San Rafael lagoon. The perfect mix of international cooking with the best traditional southern cuisine results in a feast where the protagonists are fresh ingredients. King crab, giant choros, cholgas, choritos (three distinct varieties of mussels), oysters, sea urchins, picorocos (large barnacles), salmon, sea bass, conger eel, and robalo abound.

Good cuts of meat and the unforgettable "curanto" (a local seafood, meat, and potato stew traditionally prepared in a pit over hot rocks). All of the recipes are part of a family collection. Fine wines and the classic open bar lead many passengers to go back to the tradition of drinking a good aperitif, they ask for their favorite whisky or enjoy unlimited pisco sours. The same occurs with the pastries- this is no place for diets! The offer is abundant but time takes on another dimension while sailing. There is space for reading, thinking, playing cards, and chatting.

The geography draws your attention. The agitated and mysterious sail through the Corcovado Gulf will be awarded by awe inspiring scenery. The sighting of whales brings an excitement that you must experience. Seeing the graceful dance of these enormous cetaceans makes the trip worthwhile in itself. But the high point is undoubtedly the San Rafael Glacier which you reach on the third day of sailing. Imposing, immense, spectacular. Unique colors in nature. The dimension and the silence is interrupted only by the constant breaking off and collapsing of these enormous walls of ice which can reach up to seventy meters in height. The scenery makes up for the intense cold. Making a toast with whisky or vodka on millenary ice accompanies the experience. A fine intense rain at times doesn't let you see.

The experience of feeling small in the face of this natural phenomena is priceless. The return trip begins. This journey is like no other. You can choose your cruise in the southern world. You will never forget it. •





