

ABOARD&ASHORE NOBLE CALEDONIA

PATAGONIAN ODYSSEY

PUERTO EDEN, CHILE

Arrive: 1330

Depart: 1600

WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 2024

Sunrise: 0750

Sunset: 2024

YOUR DINING

Self-service Tea & Coffee 24 hrs
The Club

Early Risers' Breakfast 0700-0730
Pastries available in the Club

Breakfast 0730-0900
Restaurant & Lido (*weather permitting*)

Late Risers' Breakfast 0900-0930
Restaurant only

Club Bar Menu 1100-1600
The Club

Lunch 1200-1330
Restaurant & Lido (*weather permitting*)

Cocktail Hour 1830-1930
The Club

Dinner 1930
Restaurant & Lido (*weather permitting*)

OPENING HOURS

Reception: Tel: 301 0600-2300

Hospital: 24 hours
Contact Reception for an appointment.

Emergency: 24 hours – dial 500 (Bridge)

The Club 1000-Late
Cocktail of the Day: Rusty Nail

Beauty Salon 0900-1900
Please book with **Teresa** via Reception or ask to view the range of treatments, including massage, hairdressing and beauty treatments.

Contact Numbers:

Reception: +1 954 672 6785

TIME ZONE:

GMT – 3

CURRENCY: CHILEAN PESO

£1 = 1,200 CLP

USD = 968 CLP

WEATHER:

6°C - 8°C Mostly cloudy with a light breeze and a few showers

Villa Puerto Edén is renowned for being the home of the last Kawésqar people (more information overleaf). Because of the extraordinarily humid climate, the village has no roads, with only pedestrian boardwalks connecting the houses and shops.

0800 *MS Island Sky* begins passage through the scenic Piloto Pardo fjord.

1030 Join Colin in the Lounge for: “Anchoveta: the little fish that feeds the World”.

Found in a narrow strip of water along the Chilean and Peruvian coastlines, in the nutrient rich waters of the Humbolt Current, this tiny fish feeds a global system that feeds the World.

Zodiac Disembarkation for our visit to PUERTO EDÉN.

1330 PORT side cabins (odd numbers)

1345 STARBOARD side cabins (even numbers)

It is a dry landing onto a jetty with a staircase and handrails. Puerto Edén is a small community who welcome visitors from passing ships. It is easy to explore independently and members of the Expedition Team will be ashore to point out anything of interest. There will be a continuous Zodiac shuttle back to the ship.

Last Zodiac back to the ship **1530.**

For your orientation: To the right of the landing jetty a boardwalk leads all the way to the ferry terminal (shed). Along the way there is a good chance to see hummingbirds and interesting flora. Halfway, there is a staircase to the top of the island for some 360° views over the fjord and surrounding islands. To the left of the landing jetty along the boardwalk is the main part of the village. There is a post office (*if it is open*) and a school. Some of the villagers sometimes sell simple handicrafts/souvenirs (*post cards, knitwear and woven baskets*) along the boardwalk and in the ferry terminal.

Good to know: Puerto Edén is a poor village in some state of disrepair, but very interesting to visit to see how people manage to carve out a living in such a remote part of the world. Although landing fees are paid, we do encourage you to buy something small so the villagers themselves gain something directly out of our visit. Please **ask** before taking pictures of people and please do not buy any food in their supermarket.

Walking: Walking is on a series of somewhat dilapidated boardwalks – some boards are often missing/rotten and it can be very slippery, **so please watch your step** – there are several small sets of steps (*not all with handrail*) and a small bridge to cross. Total distance to the ferry terminal is approx. 1km return. Approx. 70 steps to the top of the island.

Bring/wear: Zodiac life jacket, mesh bag, ship's ID, water, sun protection and money (preferably Chilean Pesos as USD might not be accepted). Wear walking shoes with a good grip and waterproofs for the zodiac ride. **Remember no food ashore!**

1730 *MS Island Sky* begins the transit through the **English Narrows.**

1900 Recap & Briefing in the Lounge.

Puerto Edén

On Isla Wellington, in one of the rainiest sectors of the Pacific fjords, the town of Puerto Edén owes its origin to an air force initiative that contemplated a stop for seaplanes between Puerto Montt and Punta Arenas. However, the site soon became the last outpost of Kawésqar hunter-gatherers, who settled here after the air force abandoned it. Today, Puerto Edén is home to the few surviving members of the Kawésqar community, who have re-created some of their traditional shelters. It is possible to purchase a sample of their crafts here. Weather and scheduled permitting, the town is a stop for Skorpis cruise ships and Navimag ferries that sail out of Puerto Natales.

The Kawésqar or Kaweskar, also called Alacaluf or Halakwulup (meaning "mussel eater" in Yaghan), are a South American people who live in the Chilean Patagonia, specifically in the Brunswick Peninsula, and Wellington, Santa Inés, and Desolación islands of the western area of Tierra del Fuego. Their traditional language is known as Kawésqar; it is endangered as few native speakers survive.

The English and other Europeans initially adopted the name that the Yaghan, a competing indigenous tribe whom they met first in central and southern Tierra del Fuego, used for these people: Alacaluf or Halakwulup (meaning "mussel eater" in Yaghan). Their own name for themselves (autonym) is Kawésqar.

Like the Yaghan in southern Chile and Argentina, the Kawésqar were a nomadic seafaring people, called canoe-people by some anthropologists. They made canoes that were eight to nine meters long and one meter wide, which would hold a family and its dog. They continued this fishing, nomadic practice until the twentieth century, when they were moved into settlements on land. Because of their maritime culture, the Kawésqar have never farmed the land.

The total population of the Kawésqar was estimated not to exceed 5,000. They ranged from the area between the Gulf of Penas (Golfo de Penas) to the north and the Brecknock Peninsula (Península de Brecknock) to the south. Like other indigenous peoples, they suffered high fatalities from endemic European infectious diseases, to which they had no immunity. Their environment was disrupted as Europeans began to settle in the area in the late 1880s. In the 1930s many remaining Alacaluf were relocated to Wellington Island, in the town of Puerto Edén, to shield them from pressures from the majority culture. Later they moved further south, to Puerto Natales and Punta Arenas.

In the 21st century, few Kawésqar remain. The 2002 census found 2,622 people identifying as Kawésqar (defined as those who still practiced their native culture or spoke their native language). In 2006, only 15 full-blooded members remained, but numerous mestizo have Kawésqar ancestry. Lessons in the Kawésqar language are part of the local curriculum, but few native speakers remain to encourage daily use of their traditional language.

In 1881, European anthropologists took eleven Kawésqar people from Patagonia to be exhibited in the Bois de Boulogne in Paris, and in the Berlin Zoological Garden. Only four survived to return to Chile. Early in 2010, the remains of five of the seven who died in Europe were repatriated from the University of Zurich, Switzerland, where they had been held for studies. Upon the return of the remains, the president of Chile formally apologised for the state having allowed these indigenous people to be taken out of the country to be exhibited and treated like animals.