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Chaski News

Fall 2010

Eco-Luxury on the Shores of Patagonia – The Cliffs Preserve

The Cliffs Preserve in Patagonia, Chile is an eco-luxury retreat and private preserve that comprises more than eight thousand pristine acres of the intact Temperate Rainforests and six miles of striking South Pacific coast. While respecting the integrity of nature's creations, The Cliffs Preserve delivers a unique experience for couples and families looking to veer off the beaten track. The marina at the Preserve is located in the only protected harbor in a 50 mile radius, ensuring the secluded and genuinely authentic Patagonian experience.



Perhaps in its most notable appearance, the preserve was featured in Anthony Bourdain's "No Reservations" show in an episode dedicated to Chile. Bourdain referred to his trip as "a gorgeous experience" and also noted that the country seems to be "many countries in one – topographically speaking."

Since 2001, the Cliffs Preserve has maintained their pledge to remain an environmentally low-impact organization by way of recycling efforts, organic gardens that reduce commercial dependency and solar-aided heating that lessens fossil fuel consumption.

The Cliffs Preserve can be experienced on either an extension to our [Paine Towers Lodge Adventure](#) or as part of a [custom journey](#).

Travel Fact: Guests at the Cliffs Preserve have many activities to choose from during their stay, including hiking some of the 20 miles of trails of the temperate rainforest surrounding the property. Throughout the trails, you can witness the great Andean Alerce trees, which resemble the Sequoia and can live for as long as 4,000 years!



Cruise the Peruvian Amazon in Style on Delfin II



Launched in early 2009, the Amazon yacht Delfin II features 14 large guest suites with panoramic windows, 4 of which connect for families or groups traveling together. Delfin II maintains its spirit of casual and refined elegance throughout the yacht, including a hammock sun deck, hallways and rooms decorated with artwork from emerging Peruvian artists and a bar with natural juices and

traditional regional cocktails from the Amazon. Peru is known for its gastronomic diversity, and the chefs on the Delfin II are no exception. Taking inspiration from the wild bounty available in the Amazon as well as immigrant culinary traditions, the cuisine served on board is truly authentic and certain to delight any palette.

Before relaxing on the sundeck, passengers have a variety of activities at their fingertips, from fishing for piranha or searching for caiman on a night safari to visiting a local village to see their indigenous culture firsthand. Don't forget to pack your binoculars, because while cruising, the Delfin II offers distinctive wildlife viewing, including sightings of the rare and mysterious pink river dolphin.

A 3- or 4-night adventure from Iquitos aboard the Delfin II is a breathtaking way to explore the Amazon either as an extension or on a [private trip](#).

Travel Fact: Delfin Amazon Cruises works to minimize their environmental impact by hiring the local natives as park rangers in their own private reserve, located within the 2.8 million hectares of the National Reserve Pacaya Samiria. As park rangers, the locals ensure that there is no illegal fishing or hunting and that the 467 species of birds are not harmed.



Lake Titicaca, a Gem in the Heart of the Andes

For a glimpse into the authentic Quechuan past, consider [extending your trip](#) to Lake Titicaca. Located in the Altiplano, or highland desert plains, Lake Titicaca is nestled between the borders of southern Peru and Bolivia. Visitors make the journey to Lake Titicaca for the remarkable scenic vistas and the friendly nature of the local communities. On the Peruvian side of the Lake, guests also enjoy the finest accommodations in the area located by the Lake's shores; the five-star Hotel Libertador or the upscale boutique Titilaka Hotel.



Lake Titicaca is home to over 40 small islands. One might not realize from the shore that many of the islands on the lake are manmade. The Uros, a pre-Incan group, inhabit and create these islands out of bundles of totora reeds. The islands are anchored with ropes and require a lot of maintenance since the layers of the island in the water rot away rather quickly. The Uros also utilize the totora reeds for reed boats, reed flower tea, a source of iodine and a form of bandage used for pain relief.

During a visit to the 3.5 square mile Taquile Island, travelers meet with local families who consider themselves true descendants of the Incas. Sheltered from modern society until the later half of the twentieth century, Taquileños maintain traditional dress and are known for their fine hand woven textiles and clothing. Their society consists of about 1700

members and is run based on the Inca moral code, *ama sua, ama llulla, ama quella*, which is Quechua for "do not steal, do not lie, do not be lazy."

Travel Fact: At 12,505 ft., Lake Titicaca is the world's highest commercially navigable lake and the largest lake by water volume in South America. It is roughly 17 times the size of Lake Tahoe in northern California and over twice the size of Rhode Island.



Tom Damon Featured in Condé Nast Traveler Magazine



We are proud to announce that for the 6th year in a row, Southwind Adventures President and Adventure Travel Specialist Tom Damon was named a "Top Travel Specialist" in the August 2010 edition of Condé Nast Traveler. Veteran travel journalist, Wendy Perrin writes, "Damon



arranges trips at all skill levels and knows the best strategies for evading tour groups. He's also the go-to person for the Amazon jungle, whether in Peru or Ecuador, and outdoorsy adventures in Chile's and Argentina's national parks."

Tom is currently taking requests from couples, families and travel groups to design highly personalized itineraries weaving together group preferences with the best of South America's unique destinations.



Join us on Facebook!



"Like" Southwind Adventures' Facebook page and receive updates on your favorite South American destinations and information about what's happening here at Southwind. Invite your friends to view your trip photos and share your experiences or reconnect with other Southwind travelers. We just posted a link to a recent New York Times special travel section on Latin America where Tom Damon shared some of his expertise with the Practical Traveler on Peru's Amazon and Machu Picchu. Log in to check us out at www.facebook.com



Travel Opportunities

Small-group departures with openings for 2011:

Feb 19-Mar 05: [Hiking the Patagonian Andes](#): An upscale walking adventure featuring Buenos Aires, Tierra del Fuego and Glaciers Park in Argentina, plus Chile's Paine Park and Santiago.

June 18-27: [World of the Incas Special Departure: Inti-Raymi Festival](#): Join us on our classic 9 day/8 night journey in Peru, including excursions to the Inca's Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu. For more information on the awe-inspiring Inti-Raymi Festival [click here](#).

Ways to Save!

Southwind offers several ways to save on our adventures, including discounts for Early Signup, Groups and Children.

Also inquire about Galápagos cruise specials.
Please visit our [Travel Discounts](#) page for further details.

What's a Chaski?

"Chaski" refers to the messengers of the Inca who would run along the kingdom's vast network of trails delivering vital information. News, intricate communication, quipus - knotted strings conveying regional statistics or perhaps exotic foods were relayed between Chaskis as they made their way towards the Incan capital of Cusco.

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