

Important Additional Information for Cruise Trek 2016: “The South America Passage”

We have been communicating with many of you already on an individual basis and thus arranging for details regarding this upcoming South America Passage adventure. Indeed, many of you are all set to travel. However, there is some new information and maybe even repetition for some... albeit, all of the below is important to grasp. With that said, if you have loose ends to tie up, questions, or need us to help with any arrangements please give us a shout out. aaron.cruisetrek@gmail.com

First important thought: if you are not booked and you still want to go... please get us a booking form (downloadable from our website) ASAP. After receipt of same we will contact you directly to see what exactly we can do. Please remember there are two cruise segments to this adventure and you can do either one or both as Aaron and I are doing!© www.Cruisetrek.com

Next topic is airfare... we believe that most of you already booked have your airfare all set. Though, as we have said in previous *Updates*, we can help you with this aspect. Honestly sometimes it just takes a really close look/search if not simply patience to find the best fares. Aaron is super good at this... so, please send him an email if you need: aaron.cruisetrek@gmail.com You can also cc me at cruisetrek@aol.com

Then as to hotels... we have been arranging both pre & post hotels either independently or through the cruise lines' package(s) depending upon personal needs, desires, and cost comparisons/options. Please contact us ASAP if you still need same. We have a really lovely spot in Buenos Aires in mind for all... AND, for those of you coming in prior to embarkation day, we are planning on taking everyone to experience a local Argentinian restaurant along with a “local” friend of ours. So, please let us know if you would like to join us! Better yet -- it will be on us!! ☺ cruisetrek@aol.com, aaron.cruisetrek@gmail.com

Embarkation Day Transfers: For those of you who arrive on the day of embarkation, the cruise line has a good transfer system from the airport. Most of you have opted for this transfer at \$40pp. For others, here is a link for a Buenos Aires Transfer. <http://www.taxiezeiza.com.ar/eng/> Otherwise taxi or other services are available if you decide to wing it upon arrival.

Disembarkation Day Transfers: It takes 1.5 to 2 hours to get to Santiago from our disembarkation port, Valparaiso. The cruise line offers two options—a transfer directly to the airport or another that includes a choice of different tours before your flight later in the evening. Please know that the transfer with the tour is only available to those passengers with flights after 9pm+/- . Please be prepared to provide your air schedule for either transfer. Currently, you can book the airport transfer only through our offices. The transfer that includes a tour can be booked on the cruise line website or on board. Which one you book depends upon your outbound flight time and, of course, availability. If you are staying after the cruise in Santiago, the cruise line has an optional post cruise hotel stay available. Contact us for same. If you are arranging your own independent hotel stay (as opposed to arranging through the cruise line) in Santiago, you'll have to arrange for your own transfer from Valparaiso. One company we used several years ago is South American Tours de Chile. <http://www.southamericantours.com/en/sat-chile> This company may also be able to arrange a tour for your post cruise stay. There are a few of you who may want to hook up together to arrange same. Our apologies that we cannot assist too much on a post tour, as Aaron and I will be staying in Valparaiso to continue our sailing adventure back to San Diego. For transfers after your San Diego disembarkation... it is just too easy. So we are all on our own... and back “home”!!! ☺

With these thoughts, if you don't already have your booking number for the cruise please send us an email and we will send same to you... this will enable you to book not only their transfer(s) but also shore excursions as well. aaron.cruisetrek@gmail.com

Important Note: Online Check-in is **required** by Holland America Line and **must be done no later than 3 days prior to sailing**. So, please go to the following link to do so:

http://www.hollandamerica.com/cruise-vacation-planning/OnlineCheckIn.action?WT.ac=pnav_FBG_OLCI_txt

Please know that your Express Docs will only be available to print at approximately 50 days prior to sailing. So, if you get Online Check-in done a little earlier than this date you will have to go back online to print what you will need. The first page of your Express Docs is your boarding pass. Your baggage tags will be therein as well. You do not have to print out everything—but that first page is the important page to bring with you. Also, your cabin number may not be assigned at this time and thus will be noted as “GTU” or “TBA” or “000.” If we receive your cabin number assignment, we will forward same to you.

Another good piece of info is the *Know Before You Go* Booklet which you can access at this link:

<http://www.hollandamerica.com/assets/cruise-vacation-onboard/KBYG.pdf>

As you can probably imagine, we are an intimate, informal family and, needless to say, a fortunate group to be able to do an adventure such as this... and so, in keeping with that theme, our structured events will be limited. The cool thing is that we will also arrange for intimate specialty restaurant dinners and cocktail parties to continue in that theme – so much so that just recently one lovely (and potential) actor guest deemed this concept as “sounding so wonderful.”

That brings us to guests! We are thrilled to say that our Emmy-award winning and good friend Ron Moore will be on board with his lovely wife Barbara. Additional actor guest(s) list has been in flux due to medical and other life issues. But we currently are scheduled to have Jerry Hardin and Dominic Keating sail with us. Of course subject to change.

Now to the next important issue... the **required Argentinian Reciprocity Fee**—which is needed before you can board your flight. No worries; it is really pretty easy to accomplish. In fact you can quickly read all the obvious Visa/ID information below; though to simply go to the link provided for same is again very straight forward. Personally we usually hold off on purchasing this item until much closer to sailing... like 2 weeks prior. But, you can do so now as well.

And speaking of requirements, the additional new and important issue to know about is that the government has changed in Argentina. Point is, this fact especially effects currency valuations. As such, there is no longer a black market for the peso as the Argentinian peso is no longer fixed by the government and, thus, now fluctuates openly with the current market... a very good thing. As of this writing ATM or exchange services will be readily available.

The below information on Visas and the [Argentinian Reciprocity Fee](#) etc. is taken directly from the cruise line's recent publication. The red highlights along with the link in blue, are the requirements most will need to adhere to for same.

VISA NOTIFICATION:

Certain countries require that you obtain official authorization (a visa) before entering the country and some countries require that you obtain a visa regardless of whether you plan to go ashore in that particular port or not. Usually, there is a fee required. Guests are responsible for verifying and obtaining any necessary travel documents for entry and exit to the countries visited, as these requirements vary depending on the specific port and nationality of the traveler. Boarding may be denied or fines levied against those guests arriving at the pier without the proper documentation and you will not be eligible for a refund. Payment of any fines levied is the responsibility of the individual guest. Please note that fees and visa requirements listed below are subject to change without notice.

VISA, VACCINATION AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To assist guests with travel preparations for one of our upcoming **South America Voyages including Argentina**, Holland America Line offers the following information about entry requirements.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Each country has its own entry requirements. Guests assume personal responsibility for having the necessary documents when boarding. We highly recommend that all guests carry a passport that is valid for at least six months beyond the completion date of your travel. In addition, there must be at least one completely blank, unused visa page in each passport for each required visa, as well as enough pages for immigration entry and exit stamps.

In addition to a passport, guests are asked to bring with them an additional (government issued) photo ID. The Front Office on board may collect and maintain all guest passports for immigration and clearance purposes during the voyage. This additional (Government issued) photo ID in combination with the ship ID will allow entrance to port security areas and clearance through the ship's gangway security. Guests from countries that do not have additional (government issued) photo ID are advised to bring a clear photo copy of their passport for identification purposes.

Certain countries require that you obtain official authorization (called a visa) before entering the country and some countries require that you obtain a visa regardless of whether you plan to go ashore in that particular port or not. Usually, there is a fee required. Guests are responsible for verifying and obtaining any necessary travel documents for entry and exit to the countries visited, as these requirements vary depending on the specific port and nationality of the traveler. This includes payment of all costs related to arrangements to obtain entry to the countries you visit. Boarding may be denied or fines levied against those guests arriving at the pier without the proper documentation and you will not be eligible for a refund. Payment of any fines levied is the responsibility of the individual guest. Please note that fees and visa requirements are subject to change without notice.

DUAL NATIONALITY

The concept of dual nationality means that a person is a citizen of two countries at the same time. Each country has its own citizenship laws based on its own policy. Guests traveling as dual nationals will need to take caution to verify requirements as laws are often amended and there can be considerable time lapse between the enactment of new laws and their actual implementation. We ask that you seek guidance from your Consulate to answer questions you may have.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR US, CANADIAN, AND AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS

ARGENTINA

The Argentine Government charges a Reciprocity Fee to all citizens of the U.S., Canada and Australia entering Argentina by air, land or sea. This applies to those arriving by cruise ship. The Reciprocity Fee will have to be paid online prior to entering Argentina, using either of the following Government websites:

www.migraciones.gov.ar or <https://reciprocidad.provincianet.com.ar/>

Fees are subject to change at any time without notice. This fee is not a visa.

US Citizens- USD \$160 (Valid for 10 years and multiple entries)

Canadian Citizens- USD \$92 (multiple entries, valid for up to 10 years or 1 month prior to passport expiration)

Australian Citizens- USD \$100 good for one year and multiple entries

*Once the payment is received, you will receive an electronic receipt with a **BARCODE** which must be printed and presented with your passport at the time of check-in for boarding your flight and/or at the pier. Without this **BARCODE** on your receipt you will not be allowed to board your flight or the ship. As this page may appear in Spanish, we recommend using a translation tool if necessary. We are not able to make any changes to this site.*

VISA INFORMATION FOR CITIZENS OF COUNTRIES NOT LISTED ABOVE

Since requirements vary for each nationality, we request that all guests who are not United States, Canadian, Dutch, German, Australian or United Kingdom citizens contact local authorities or a visa service provider in your area to determine individual requirements for all ports as requirements may vary depending on the specific nationality of the traveler.

OVERLAND ADVENTURES

If you are participating in a pre- or post- cruise tour it is your responsibility to obtain any necessary visas, vaccinations or tourist cards before traveling.

If you are participating in an Overland Adventure or Overnight Tour during the cruise and entering a country (that requires a visa for your nationality) by land or air during the tour, you will need to arrange for your visa prior to sailing.

Select visas that may be available onboard can only be obtained if you are arriving with the ship.

Please note: All fees and visa requirements are subject to change without advance notice. All visa regulations and requirements are that of the countries visited and not Holland America Line's requirements.

Thank you for choosing Holland America Line!
