



# ANTARCTICA, ARGENTINA & CHILE CRUISE

January 26, 2021 – 28 Days

*20-day cruise around Cape Horn on Westerdam*

Wells Gray Tours only offers this very special opportunity to visit the 7th continent every few years. There are so many highlights on this tour, but the most memorable will likely be the four days cruising among the gigantic icebergs of Antarctica. On board, experts will present lectures about glaciology, geology, natural history, and history, plus the ice pilot may take a break from the bridge to explain his route finding skills. Other memorable experiences include elegant Buenos Aires, awesome Iguazu Falls, the isolated Falkland Islands, the thrill of rounding Cape Horn, Ushuaia (the world's southernmost city), the Chilean Fjords and Darwin Channel, and cruising past the vast Amalia Glacier.

Activity Level: 2



**TOUR**  
**25**

72 Meals Included:

25 breakfasts, 23 lunches, 24 dinners

Fares Per Person based on double/twin

\$14,145 Inside Category I

\$14,790 Oceanview Category D

\$16,156 Verandah Category VD

Other categories are available, as well as single fares

Tour is exempt from GST

Early Bookers:

\$300 discount on first 8 seats; \$150 on next 4

Experience Points:

Earn 224 points on this tour

Redeem 224 points if you book by October 13



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Tuesday, January 26

Transportation is provided to Seattle and we stay overnight at Embassy Suites Hotel near the airport. Meet the BC Interior travellers during a get-acquainted reception after arrival.

**Accommodation:** Embassy Suites Hotel

### Day 2: Wednesday, January 27

Our flight on Delta Airlines leaves mid-morning and connects in Atlanta, arriving tomorrow morning in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (Flight schedules will be available in April 2020.) There is a five-hour time change from Seattle to Buenos Aires.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, *in-flight*

### Day 3: Thursday, January 28

Our bilingual guide, driver and coach meet us at the international airport. **Buenos Aires**, the capital and largest city of Argentina, was founded in 1580 and now boasts a metropolitan population of 14 million. Early check-in has been arranged at the four-star Claridge Hotel. The afternoon is leisure time to rest after the long flight. The hotel has a wonderful location half a block from Florida Street which is a pedestrian mall with many shops.

**Meals included:** Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Claridge Hotel

### Day 4: Friday, January 29

Our morning flight to Iguazu takes less than two hours. The magnificent **Iguazu Falls** is one of the world's most incredible natural sights and it is sure to take your breath away — in fact, it won the distinction of being voted one of the New 7 Natural Wonders of the World. Iguazu consists of 275 waterfalls spread along an escarpment nearly three km wide. The individual cascades range from 65 to 80 metres high, considerably taller than Niagara. The most stunning section is Garganta del Diablo (**Devil's Throat**) which has water pouring into it from three sides. Walkways and bridges provide easy access to numerous

viewpoints on the Argentina side of the falls. A local guide accompanies us as we stroll from one panoramic vista to another. We stay overnight at the luxurious Melia Iguazu Hotel near the falls.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Melia Iguazu Hotel

### Day 5: Saturday, January 30

Part of the morning is free to return to your favourite viewpoints of Iguazu Falls. We take a noon flight back to Buenos Aires, then we drive to the cruise terminal and board the **Westerdam**. The rest of the day is free time to explore the ship and get acquainted with its many facilities. This evening is our first sumptuous dinner on board, followed by a lively "welcome" stage show in the theatre. The **Westerdam** stays docked in Buenos Aires tonight.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### Day 6: Sunday, January 31

A morning sightseeing tour of Buenos Aires includes the Palermo and Barrio Norte districts with expensive houses and classic architecture, the historic districts of La Boca and San Telmo, **Julio Avenue** (widest boulevard in the world), the Opera House, and Eva Peron's mausoleum. At the vast Plaza de Mayo, we admire the pink Casa Rosada, home of the Argentinian government. This is the square where Eva and Juan Peron addressed the crowds during their political rallies. We return to the ship in time for lunch on board. The afternoon is free time to explore more sights in Buenos Aires, or relax on board. At 6 pm, we cast off and sail out into the **Rio de la Plata**. This is the second largest drainage basin in South America and the river is about 80 km wide at Buenos Aires.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### **Day 7: Monday, February 1**

Overnight, we cross the Rio de la Plata and arrive in **Montevideo**, the capital of Uruguay. The city was founded in 1726 and Uruguay was created a century later as a buffer between the competing Spanish of Argentina and the Portuguese of Brazil. Today, Montevideo is one of the principal ports of South America with a population of 1.4 million. A morning sightseeing tour is included which visits Plaza Independencia, Palacio Salvo, Solis Theatre, and the Legislative Palace. The *Westerdam* sails at 4 pm.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### **Day 8: Tuesday, February 2**

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### **Day 9: Wednesday, February 3**

These are two leisurely days at sea, cruising off the coast of Argentina. Because this is a specialty cruise, several experts are on board who are knowledgeable with geology, history, bird and marine life, as well as Argentina, Antarctica and Chile. Fascinating illustrated lectures are given during the days at sea.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### **Day 10: Thursday, February 4**

The *Westerdam* arrives at Stanley, the largest settlement of the **Falkland Islands**, at 8 am and departs at 5 pm. The Falklands consist of some 200 barren and rugged islands with a population of less than 3,000 people, of which Stanley accounts for over half. The islands have been a British dependency since 1833, although Argentina also claims sovereignty and this sparked the 1982 skirmish known as the Falklands War. This is a tender port. Stroll the attractive waterfront, visit the museum, and buy souvenirs that are surprisingly reasonably priced in British pounds.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### **Day 11: Friday, February 5**

This is a day at sea cruising south to Antarctica.  
**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### **Day 12: Saturday, February 6**

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### **Day 13: Sunday, February 7**

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### **Day 14: Monday, February 8**

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### **Day 15: Tuesday, February 9**

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### **Day 16: Wednesday, February 10**

Nothing quite prepares you for waking up amid the spectacular beauty of **Antarctica**. It is the fifth largest of the Earth's seven continents, covering 14 million square kilometres. All but 2.4% is covered by ice and, even along the rugged coastline, there are few areas of exposed land or beaches. Seven nations claim territory in Antarctica. Since 1961, the continent has been administered cooperatively under the Antarctic Treaty, an international agreement to preserve it for peaceful scientific study. The climate can be summarized as "cold" – the world record low temperature was minus 195 degrees Celsius. The areas we visit along the coast are warm by comparison and, during this late summer cruise, temperatures should be about freezing. Holland America Line pioneered cruise ship travel in Antarctica and this is a unique opportunity to explore this seldom-visited continent. Please note that there are no landings during this Antarctica cruise as ships with over 500 passengers are not permitted to do shore excursions. The ice pilot has planned the ideal route for optimum sightseeing in Antarctica, but weather, ocean and ice conditions, and visibility are likely to change the course several times. During our four days of

slow cruising along the awesome coastline of Antarctica, we may see **Elephant Island**, Endurance Glacier, **Esperanza Station** (an Argentina research facility), Paulet Island, Half Moon Island, and Deception Island. Half a day is devoted to cruising through a wonderland of icebergs and narrow waterways in the Neumayer and Lemaire Channels. In "**Iceberg Alley**", we have the thrilling experience of sailing close to immense floating ice sheets that are taller than the ship and up to six km around. On the third day, the *Westerdam* picks up some staff from **Palmer Station** who give a talk about living year round in this isolated place. Late on February 9, the ship starts the northward journey across the **Drake Passage** and it takes 1½ days before South America is visible on the horizon.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### **Day 17: Thursday, February 11**

We arrive at the next highlight, storied **Cape Horn** at the south tip of South America. It was discovered by the Dutch navigator, Willem Schouten, in 1616 and, for centuries, was legendary in the annals of world explorers for its strong currents, high winds, and rocky hazards for sailing ships.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### **Day 18: Friday, February 12**

The *Westerdam* calls at **Ushuaia** between 9 am and 3 pm. It is the world's southernmost city at Latitude 55 and is located on Tierra del Fuego. After departure, some spectacular scenery awaits as we cruise out of Ushuaia past the Italia, Francia, Alemania, and **Romanche Glaciers** which tumble from rugged mountains right to tidewater. We follow the **Beagle Channel**, named for Charles Darwin's ship in 1839, and Cockburn Channel through a myriad of islands off **Tierra del Fuego**.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### **Day 19: Saturday, February 13**

Our first port of call in Chile is **Punta Arenas**, a city of 125,000 on the Strait of Magellan. We arrive at 10 am and depart at 10 pm. The Plaza de Armas Square is dominated by the Hernando de Magallanes Monument, commemorating the discovery of this important waterway in 1520. This afternoon's tour visits Plaza de Armas, Cerro de la Cruz, the cemetery, and monuments along Bulnes Avenue. The Museo Salesiano is operated by friars and has an excellent collection of flora and fauna, and relics of Patagonian Indian tribes. The tour also includes the **Parque Estrecho de Magallanes** overlooking the Strait of Magellan.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### **Day 20: Sunday, February 14**

We sail through the western half of the **Strait of Magellan**, past soaring peaks, and emerge into the Pacific Ocean at the pinnacles of Cabo Pilar. Next, we cruise along the natural Canal Sarmiento, then to the head of a fjord where **Amalia Glacier** plunges into the ocean. It is a finger of the vast Southern Patagonia Icefield and is a kilometre wide as seen from the *Westerdam*. The glacier is noted for its incredible blue colour. Chunks of ice periodically break off the 40-metre high front and crash into the sea.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### **Day 21: Monday, February 15**

The *Westerdam* sails through **Darwin Channel** with the massive peaks of the Andes rising to the east. Among these many islands, you may see albatross, penguins, sea lions, and dolphins. These fjords of Chile rival the famous fjords of Norway and Alaska.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### Day 22: Tuesday, February 16

The *Westerdam* enters the **Aisen Fjord** and stops for the day at the isolated town of Puerto Chacabuco which has a population of only 2,000 people. This is a tender port. The ship arrives at 7 am and leaves at 3 pm.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### Day 23: Wednesday, February 17

We cruise through Reloncavi Sound to reach our last port, **Puerto Montt**. The city has an attractive setting at the gateway to Chile's lakes district. Our included tour travels to the base of the imposing Osorno Volcano which was very active in the 19th century and last erupted in 1869. We also visit the **Petrohue Waterfalls** near Lake Todos los Santos in Vicente Perez National Park and the Frutillar German Colonial Museum. The ship sails at 5 pm.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### Day 24: Thursday, February 18

Enjoy your last day at Sea!

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Westerdam*

### Day 25: Friday, February 19

We dock at **San Antonio** and bid farewell to the *Westerdam*. A coach meets us at the dock and, with a local guide, we head inland from the Pacific Coast. Lunch, a winery tour and wine tasting are included at Vina Mar in the pastoral **Casablanca Valley**, then we continue on the

150-km drive to Santiago. Our overnight accommodation is at the four-star Hotel Pullman Vitacura.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Pullman Vitacura

### Day 26: Saturday, February 20

The morning is leisure time. **Santiago** was established in 1541 by the Spanish and became the capital in 1818 when Chile achieved independence. Its population is now approaching five million. An afternoon tour of Chile's capital city includes the main square, the Presidential Palace, the cathedral, and the residential areas. We ride the **Santiago Teleférico** (cablecar) to enjoy a panoramic view of the city and the Andes to the east. After the tour, a "Farewell to South America" dinner is a chance to reminisce with fellow travellers about all our adventures, probably highlighted by Antarctica and rounding Cape Horn. Then we go to the airport and board our overnight flight with Delta Airlines to North America.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 27: Sunday, February 21

We change planes in Atlanta and arrive in Seattle in early afternoon. We stay overnight at the Embassy Suites.

**Meals included:** In-flight

**Accommodation:** Embassy Suites Hotel

### Day 28: Monday, February 22

Transportation is arranged from Seattle to your pickup point in the Vancouver area.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

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## CRUISE TO THE 7<sup>TH</sup> CONTINENT

Wells Gray Tours offers a cruise to Antarctica every two to three years. This is a very special opportunity to visit the 7th continent and certainly has bragging rights because probably not many of your friends have been there. There are so many highlights on this tour, but the most memorable will likely be the four days cruising among the gigantic icebergs of Antarctica. It is hard to imagine waking up one morning and looking out to see an iceberg longer and higher than the *Westerdam*. Antarctica experts are on board to present lectures about glaciology, geology, natural history, and history, plus the ice pilot may take a break

from the bridge to explain his route finding skills.

Other

memorable experiences are elegant Buenos Aires, awesome Iguazu Falls, three km wide and 80 metres high; the bleak and isolated Falkland Islands; the thrills of rounding Cape Horn and entering the legendary Strait of Magellan; Ushuaia, world's southernmost city; cruising in the Chilean Fjords and Darwin Channel, and past many tumbling glaciers including the vast Amalia Glacier. This tour and cruise should be on everyone's bucket list. It will also qualify you for two more continents towards being honoured by Wells Gray Tours' 7 Continents Memento.

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## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transportation to/from Seattle Airport
  - Hotel accommodation and taxes for 5 nights in Seattle, Buenos Aires, Iguazu Falls, and Santiago
  - Flight from Seattle to Buenos Aires
  - Current air transport taxes, fuel surcharges and security fees
  - Transfers from Buenos Aires international airport to hotel and back to Jorge Newbery airport
  - Flight from Buenos Aires to Iguazu Falls and return
  - Transportation and guide in Iguazu Falls area
  - Iguazu Falls National Park fee
  - Transfer from Newbery Airport to cruise terminal
  - Stateroom for 20 nights on board *Westerdam*
  - Port charges & cruise taxes (C\$559 per person)
  - Cruise gratuities (US\$290 per person)
  - Entertainment, expert lecturers, and other services on *Westerdam*
  - Locally-guided tour of Buenos Aires, Argentina
  - Locally-guided tour of Montevideo, Uruguay
  - Locally-guided tour of Punta Arenas, Chile
  - Parque Estrecho de Magallanes
  - Locally-guided tour near Puerto Montt, Chile
  - Petrohue Waterfalls admission
  - Frutillar German Colonial Museum
  - Transfer from San Antonio cruise terminal to Santiago with Casablanca winery tour and wine tasting
  - Locally-guided tour of Santiago, Chile
  - Santiago Teleférico (cablecar)
  - Transfer to Santiago airport
  - Chile departure tax
  - Flight from Santiago to Seattle
  - Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director throughout tour and cruise
  - Gratuities for South America guides and drivers
  - Luggage handling at hotels and ship
  - **72 meals:** 25 breakfasts, 23 lunches, 24 dinners
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## *MS WESTERDAM*

*Holland America's MS Westerdam made her inaugural cruise in 2004. She was the third of four Vista-class ships launched, preceded by Zuiderdam in 2002 and Oosterdam in 2003 and followed by Noordam in 2006. Carrying 1,848 passengers, these ships are Holland America's third largest design, but they still have an intimate feel to them. Westerdam's gross tonnage is 82,000p and she is 300 metres long. Her 11 decks feature a 900-seat live entertainment theatre, seven lounges, casino, shopping arcade, movie lounge, beauty shop, library, games room, Internet centre, spa, gymnasium, and two swimming pools (one with sliding dome cover). Westerdam has 14 elevators and four of them are glass with panoramic views.*

Dining is one of the highlights of a cruise. The elegant two-floor Dining Room serves breakfast, lunch and dinner with full choice of menu. The Lido Market offers six buffet-style serving stations for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and the 11 pm buffet. The Pinnacle Grill and Canaletto Restaurant offer extraordinary service, reserved seating, and gourmet menus for an extra charge. You can also dine in the privacy of your stateroom by ordering from the complimentary room service menu 24 hours a day. Staterooms have twin lower beds (some convert to queen-size double), television, music, telephone, and bathroom with toilet, sink and shower or bathtub. A crew of over 800 ensures top-quality service and entertainment. Every day has a full schedule of optional activities: dance class, bridge, bingo, shuffleboard, table-tennis, karaoke, and board games. The movie theatre presents recent films frequently, there is an entertaining live stage show every evening, and musicians are playing in most lounges.

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## CRUISE NOTES

**A very unique voyage:** This cruise features 12 days at sea (including 6 days of scenic cruising) and 6 days visiting ports in Argentina, Uruguay, Falkland Islands, and Chile. The voyage is most likely to appeal to people who want to learn about their destinations. Antarctica and South America experts are on board to present lectures and they are so popular that you should be in the theatre half an hour before to get a seat. During the four days in Antarctica, you should be in the Crowsnest Lounge by 5 am to secure a good window seat, although many people bring winter coats, sweaters, toques, and gloves, and spend many hours on deck enthralled with the passing icy spectacles. Even though February is late summer in Antarctica, the weather is still cool. The ship does not dock in Antarctica and you do not set foot on land or ice. Regulations about visiting Antarctica are very strict and only small expedition ships are allowed to put guests ashore, 100 at a time. The wildlife, including hundreds of penguins, can be seen from the ship, but bring along some binoculars for even better viewing.

**Shore excursions included:** On most cruises, shore excursions are a major additional expense during your holiday. For this trip, Wells Gray has arranged private guided tours at Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Punta Arenas, Puerto Montt, and Santiago. Gratuities to drivers and guides are also included.

**Please book early:** Holland America has confirmed a block of staterooms for this tour and they are normally held until four months before sailing (mid-September 2020). However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time when the ship fills and Antarctica cruises always sell out due to the limited number of departures. On previous tours, we had to turn away disappointed customers, even though we still had seats available on the coaches and planes.

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**TOUR 25** **Tour 25:** This is a Tour 25 departure, meaning the tour is limited to 25 participants, offering a more intimate travel experience.

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**Activity Level 2:** Due to the historic nature of some cities and attractions, it will be necessary to climb stairs, walk on uneven surfaces, and walk up to one kilometre, plus stand for an extended time on walking tours. Expect moderate activity during the shore excursions, boarding ship's tenders, and pre-cruise and post-cruise tours. The days on board the ship can be rated as Activity Level 1. Seeing and experiencing everything mentioned in this itinerary requires active participation. The coaches cannot carry a scooter. There can be longer walks in the airports; request a wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 2, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director, local guides and drivers have many

responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or need frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

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## Tour Policies

**Payments:** A deposit of \$1,200 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due October 13, 2020. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$300 discount on first 8 seats and \$150 on next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after October 13.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to September 11, 2020, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From September 12 to October 13, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person. From October 14 to November 13, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From November 14 to December 11, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After December 11, there is no refund.

**Travel Insurance:** A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

**Changes to tour:** As this tour has been planned 15 months in advance, changes to foreign currency exchange rates and taxes, and surcharges from the airline, cruise ship and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore, Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure. The flight cannot be confirmed until April 2020, so the included air fare could be higher or lower than expected. Hotels named in the itinerary could change, but substitute accommodation will be similar or better quality.

**Documentation:** A passport is required with an expiry date after your return to Canada. A visa is not required for a Canadian to enter Argentina, Falkland Islands or Chile.

**Home pickups:** are available within Greater Vancouver for an additional charge of \$40 per person round trip. Please request no later than at final payment.

**Photo Credits:** Pixabay

**Experience Points:** This tour earns 224 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until October 13.

**Consumer Protection BC Licences:** Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

<b>KAMLOOPS</b>	<b>KELOWNA</b>	<b>VERNON</b>	<b>PENTICTON</b>	<b>VICTORIA</b>
(Head Office) 250 Lansdowne St. Kamloops, BC V2C 1X7 <b>250-374-0831</b>	2575 Richter St. Kelowna, BC V1Y 2R1 <b>250-762-3435</b>	3206 35th St. Vernon, BC V1T 6B7 <b>250-545-9197</b>	100-159 Wade Ave East Penticton, BC V2A 8B6 <b>250-493-1255</b>	102-736 Broughton St. Victoria, BC V8W 1E1 <b>250-590-7889</b>
<b>Office Hours:</b> 8:30am to 4:30pm Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri Weds 9:00am to 4:30pm Closed holidays & weekends	<b>Office Hours:</b> 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Closed holidays & weekends	<b>Office Hours:</b> 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Closed holidays & weekends	<b>Office Hours:</b> 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Closed holidays & weekends	<b>Office Hours:</b> 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Closed holidays & weekends

**WE PLAN. YOU PACK. NO WORRIES!**

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