Lonesome Explorers: From the Streets of Santiago to the Andes and Wilds of Patagonia, YVONNE GORDON says tourism is booming in Chile

Long ago, explorers and navigators believed the earth was flat and thought three of its mountains at the Bolívar Peninsula were the axis of the world. We’re nearly at the bottom of the world ourselves, bumping along some unpaved roads where Rodrigo, a local guide, is introducing me to Patagonia, a region shared by Chile and Argentina.

Apparently the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan named the land here “Aysén,” which means “ice end.” I didn’t know how to imagine. Landing in Santiago I remembered that a land of volcanoes, forests and mountains — though it was nearly at the bottom of the world and you worry there might be monsters, but then it turns out that parts are just like home...

From the streets of Santiago to the Andes and wilds of Patagonia, YVONNE GORDON says tourism is booming in Chile

19 December 2015