

# Travel

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## CRUISING

GETTY IMAGES/DEAGOSTINI ; CLAUDIA R. CAPOS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE (BELOW)



BILL REGAN FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Elizabeth Foote coils line at a lock.

### NEW YORK

## Navigating the canal

By Jane Roy Brown  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

WATERFORD — Floating at the bottom of the first lock of the Erie Canal, the Nicole Claudine barely registers my weight as I step out on the catwalk. I flail with my boathook, a six-foot pole with a hook at the end, trying to snag one of the ropes that hang at intervals along the slimy concrete wall. My husband, 10 feet away, is trying to do the same thing.

“Cut the engine now,” says Captain Powell to our friend Eric Thorgerson, who’s taking his turn at the helm. Then, to us flailers: “Now use the pole and twirl the line around it a few times — don’t get your hands caught.”

“Aye, Cap’n!” I shout, part Jack Sparrow, part Shane MacGowan of the Pogues. It just comes out.

A wan smile flickers across Powell’s sunburned face. “Everybody does that,” he says. “Just hang onto that line with your hook, but stay loose, so you can keep sliding as we rise to the top.”

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### CAPE HORN

## To the end of the world, in Magellan’s wake

Though safer and more luxurious, voyages still face uncertain weather and treacherous waters

By Claudia R. Capos  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

TIERRA DEL FUEGO, Chile — At 7:45 a.m. on a Sunday in early January, several hundred passengers aboard the Celebrity Infinity huddled with cameras along the starboard railings on the ship’s decks, poised for the rounding of Cape Horn. The roughly 2,000-mile journey from Buenos Aires to the tip of South America had taken a week, some of it through treacherous seas, and anticipation was high.

As if on cue, bitter-cold wind hurled tiny daggers of ice crystals at the mariners, sending many of the less-stalwart scuttling for the nearest doorway. Others weathered the onslaught and hoped for the best.

Suddenly, the roiling skies cleared, and a rainbow appeared, glancing off the craggy granite rock face of Cape Horn.

“This is what we came all this way to see,” exclaimed passenger Bobbi Sorensen of Atlanta. “It was a real thrill!”

Her husband, Tom, a seasoned sailboat captain, marveled at the blackness of the granite rocks and the isolation of the continent’s southernmost outcropping. “Cape Horn is literally the punctuation mark at the end of the world,” he said.

Author and on-board historian James W. Reid proclaimed this particular rounding of the Cape the best he’d seen in 100 voyages. “Travel is very uncertain in this part of the world, and the unpredictable weather makes you stop and think: How did [Ferdinand] Magellan . . . do it?” he said.

Reid presented slide shows and lectures on South American history, ports of call, and points of interest throughout our 14-day cruise to Valparaíso.

“Here, the magic of the past has not faded with time,” he said. “You can still relive the days of these early navigators and see the same things they saw as you sail around the Horn and through the Strait of Magellan and the Beagle Channel.”

Today, cruising around the tip of South America is much safer, more luxurious, and far more affordable than ever. Celebrity, Princess, Norwegian Cruise Lines, Silversea, and other cruise companies offer a variety of sailings, with multiple ports of call in

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Rock formations off Cape Horn. Magellan penguins at a rookery in Argentina.



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