

PATAGONIA

Patagonia: Expedition and Cultural Exploration

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Hike through some of the most unspoiled terrain in South America on this horse-supported trek in Patagonia.
- ▶ Traverse plateaus, beech forests, grasslands, glacial valleys, and red mountains while taking in breathtaking panoramic views in and around Patagonia National Park.
- ▶ Get involved in camp life at idyllic and scenic sites before recharging and refreshing at a mix of well-appointed family lodges.

TRIP ROUTE



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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1 arrive in Balmaceda, Chile (BBA) and meet your AdventureWomen Ambassador to assist you with a transfer to Coyhaique
- Day 2 travel by van to La Naviera, a historical family ranch outside of Puerto Guadal
- Day 3 trek through a traditional Patagonian campo and into the mountains before settling in at our first backcountry tents
- Day 4 enjoy views down to Lago General Carrera during a full-day hike near Patagonia National Park
- Day 5 hike through the meadows and forests of Pampa Zorro
- Day 6 loop back to the start of the hike at Lago General Carrera for a night of recovery at La Naviera
- Day 7 hike along the shores of the lake before enjoying a traditional Patagonian dinner at the lodge
- Day 8 hike a 9-mile loop in Patagonia National Park through colorful mountains and glacial plateaus
- Day 9 choose between a 12-mile loop trail with panoramic views or a shorter 7-mile hike through the Chacabuco Valley
- Day 10 drive along the Carretera Austral returning to the Balmaceda airport for flights home

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Challenging

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$6,995

Optional Single Accommodations: \$800

TRIP DATES

January 17 - 26, 2025

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DAY 1
Friday
1/17/25

Arrive in Chile

This trekking expedition moves through the farms and mountains of northern Patagonia National Park, while using horses to lighten the load. You will deepen your cultural connection to this place, as you progress to the heart of Patagonia. Beautiful day hikes will allow you to explore the tremendous conservation achievements of the Aysen Region.

Arrival and Transfer Information

Arrive in Balmaceda, Chile (BBA) at anytime today. You'll be given transfer instructions to the Patagonia House in Coyhaique closer to your departure date.

Check-in and Dinner

Check-in at the hotel and meet in the evening for a welcome dinner and orientation.

Accommodations

Patagonia House

Meals Included

dinner

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DAY 2
Saturday
1/18/25

Begin your Patagonia Expedition

Puerto Guadal is a picturesque village located in the Aysén Region of Chile. It is situated on the shores of General Carrera Lake, the largest lake in Chile, known for its stunning turquoise waters and surrounded by the Andes mountains. This remote and tranquil destination is popular for outdoor activities such as fishing, kayaking, and hiking, offering a serene escape for nature enthusiasts.

Drive Along Carretera Austral

Depart the hotel at 8am and travel by van south along the historic Carretera Austral for an approximate 5-hour drive to the shores of Lago General Carrera, the second-largest lake in South America. After stopping for a mid-day lunch, arrive at your accommodation, outside of the little town of Puerto Guadal.

Ranch Walk and Tour

Settle into this idyllic spot, and shake off the days of travel with a 2-3 mile walk around the thousand-acre ranch.

Today's Walk

2-3 miles on flat walking track, 1.5 hours.

Accommodations

Vientos del Sur

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 3
Sunday
1/19/25

Prepare the Horses and Begin your Journey

A traditional Patagonian campo is a rural farm in the Patagonia region of South America, which spans across both Chile and Argentina. These campos are characterized by their vast expanses of open land, often featuring rugged terrain, grassy plains, and forests, all set against a backdrop of stunning mountains. These ranches may have rustic homesteads, known as "estancias," and they play a significant role in the history and culture of Patagonia.

Meet Local Families and Horses

After a hearty breakfast, you'll pack up and head into the mountains. Meet the local families and horses that support your trek. After dividing and organizing your food and gear for the horses to carry, you'll set off on our trek.

Hike into the Mountains

The trek today starts winding through a traditional Patagonian campo before heading higher into the mountains. You'll be grateful to have the horses carrying your gear! Arrive at your campsite — a spectacular perch overlooking the Jeinimeni mountains, where you may have the opportunity to spend time with an experienced gaucho tending sheep.

Dinner at Camp

Gather around a fire for a delicious camp dinner and conversation about Patagonian history and culture.

Today's Hike

5 miles, 5-6 hours, 2,100 ft elevation gain on dirt trails and 4x4 tracks with potential muddy sections.

Accommodations

Backcountry Camps

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 4
Monday
1/20/25

Hiking

Plateaus in Patagonia are often found at higher altitudes and can offer expansive panoramic views of the surrounding landscapes, which may include mountains, valleys, and lakes. Plateau hikes in Patagonia allow hikers to experience the region's natural beauty and diverse ecosystems while enjoying a less strenuous terrain compared to steep mountain ascents.

Plateau Hike

After breakfast, you'll begin your day climbing higher on a dramatic plateau, which, on a clear day, affords sweeping views down to Lago General Carrera, across to the Northern Patagonian Ice Field. You'll spend most of the day hiking above treeline, through strange colored rock formations, before descending to your idyllic camp in a lush valley, surrounded by hanging glaciers.

Arrive at Camp

The horses will meet the group to deliver your supplies, and you'll set up a base camp at a rustic yet idyllic spot called Pampa Zorro for the next two nights. In the evening, you'll gather to learn more about the establishment of nearby Patagonia National Park.

Today's Hike

8 miles, 6-8 hours, 1,200 ft elevation gain, largely off trail on gravel and scree, potentially on snow (6-8 hours)

Accommodations

Backcountry Camps

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 5
Tuesday
1/21/25

Hiking

Valle Chacabuco in Patagonia National Park is a breathtaking region within the park located in the Aysén Region of Chilean Patagonia. It's known for its vast wilderness and diverse ecosystems. The valley features rolling grasslands, meandering rivers, and snow-capped peaks, providing a habitat for native wildlife like guanacos and Andean condors. This area is also undergoing an extensive landscape restoration initiative.

Day Hike from Pampa Zorro

From your base camp in the meadows and forests of Pampa Zorro, you can day hike uphill to a dramatic pass above treeline looking into Valle Chacabuco, the heart of Patagonia National Park. From there, the walking options in the open alpine terrain are endless, depending on the weather and group energies.

Today's Hike

6-8 miles, 5-6 hours, 1,600 ft elevation gain, largely off trail on gravel and scree with a section on a steep dirt trail.

Accommodations

Backcountry Camps

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 6
Wednesday
1/22/25

Close the Horse-Supported Loop

An asado dinner in Chile is a traditional barbecue feast, similar to those in other South American countries like Argentina and Uruguay. It typically involves grilling a variety of meats, such as beef, sausages, and sometimes chicken or lamb, over an open flame or charcoal. The meats are often seasoned with simple ingredients like salt and occasionally chimichurri sauce for added flavor. Asado gatherings are a social tradition, where friends and family come together to enjoy grilled meats, conversation, and the outdoors. It's a beloved and communal dining experience in Chile.

Close the Horse-Supported Loop

Our final day of the horse-supported loop takes you through beautiful southern beech forest and glacial valleys as you make your way back toward Lago General Carrera. As you near the pick-up point, you'll return to the land of Patagonian campos.

Traditional Asado Dinner

With your longest day of hiking complete, you'll return to your accommodation, for a traditional asado and celebratory feast.

Today's Hike

11 miles, 6-8 hours, 100 ft. elevation gain, mix of 4x4 track and dirt horse trail.

Accommodations

Vientos del Sur

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 7
Thursday
1/23/25

Recharge at the Ranch

Lago General Carrera, also known as Lake Buenos Aires, is the largest lake in Chile and the second-largest in South America. It's located in the Patagonia region, spanning the Chilean and Argentinean border. The lake is renowned for its stunning turquoise and blue waters, surrounded by dramatic landscapes of the Andes Mountains. The lake is a picturesque and pristine natural attraction in the heart of Patagonia.

Recharge at the Ranch

After enjoying hot showers & comfortable beds after yesterday's long hike, spend the morning by the shores of Lago General Carrera, hiking with views of the Northern Patagonian Icefield and Patagonia's highest peak, Monte San Valentin. If the day is inviting, you might even take a swim in these pristine blue waters! Gather for a big lunch. After lunch, options will be available for shorter and longer small group hikes around your accommodation in the afternoon.

Traditional Patagonian Dinner

Tonight, we'll share another traditional Patagonian dinner back in the historic dining room, and perhaps stargaze as night arrives.

Today's Hike

Various options, from 3-8 miles, mostly on dirt paths and 4x4 tracks.

Accommodations

Vientos del Sur

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 8
Friday
1/24/25

Hiking the National Park

Patagonia National Park is a protected area in the Aysén Region of Chilean Patagonia. It encompasses a diverse range of landscapes, including forests, grasslands, rivers, and mountains. The park is known for its conservation efforts and the transformation of a former sheep ranch into a protected wilderness area. It's home to various wildlife species like guanacos, foxes, and condors, as well as opportunities for hiking, wildlife watching, and exploring the pristine wilderness. The park is a significant conservation project, preserving the natural beauty of Patagonia and promoting sustainable tourism.

Patagonia National Park

After an early breakfast at La Naviera, transition to the center of Patagonia National Park. You'll drive to the Aviles Valley Trailhead, where you'll set off for a dramatic 9-mile loop hike through the colorful red mountains and glacially formed plateaus that make this side valley unique.

Today's Hike

10 miles, 5-8 hours, 900 ft elevation gain, established dirt hiking trail with several steep sections.

Accommodations

Frontcountry Camps

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 9
Saturday
1/25/25

Continue Hiking Patagonia National Park

Patagonia is known for its stunning natural landscapes and hiking opportunities. On your final day in Patagonia National Park, you have two hiking options.

Continue Hiking Patagonia National Park

On your final day in Patagonia National Park, you'll have two hiking options. Those looking for a challenging, stunning finale can tackle the 12-mile Lagunas Altas loop, named one of Patagonia's five best trails, with panoramic views and varied terrain. Those looking for a slightly shorter option can hike through the expansive grasslands of the Chacabuco Valley to a new suspension bridge high over a river canyon, approximately 7 miles.

Farewell Dinner

This evening, you'll transition to a lodge in Puerto Guadal for a farewell dinner and final evening of celebration.

Today's Hike

Either 13 miles, 7-9 hours, 2,500 ft elevation gain, dirt trail with some steep sections; or 7 miles, 4-6 hours, 400 ft elevation gain, dirt trail mostly through grasslands.

Accommodations

Patagonia 47g

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 10
Sunday
1/26/25

Head North to the Carretera Austral

The Carretera Austral is a legendary and remote highway in Chile. Stretching for over 1,200 kilometers, it winds through some of the most breathtaking and untouched landscapes in Chilean Patagonia. The route offers access to remote villages, pristine wilderness, and stunning natural wonders.

Carretera Austral Wake up early to head north up the Carretera Austral, or “Southern Highway,” often called one of the world’s great road trips. Drive for 6-7 hours along the turquoise Baker River, and then near the eastern border of the Northern Patagonian Ice Field.

Departure Information You'll arrive at the Balmaceda airport (BBA) in time for afternoon flights. Please do not schedule your return flight until after 3pm.

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

Meals Included
breakfast

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Accommodation Details

Patagonia House Patagonia House is a comfortable mountain lodge set against the panoramic backdrop of the snow-capped Andes. Suites at Patagonia Lodge are decorated with tasteful wooden floors and matching autumn décor.

Amenities: Free Wi-Fi, Balconies

Vientos del Sur Nestled within the serene beauty of Chilean Patagonia's rural landscape, Vientos del Sur offers accommodation in the Mallín Grande area. This establishment offers fully furnished cabins, ensuring a delightful and fulfilling experience for the guests amidst the privileged natural surroundings.

Amenities: bedding/linens, equipped kitchen

Backcountry Camps

At each of your backcountry camps, you will have a 3-season camping tent. Ground sheet, fly sheet, vestibule and closed-cell foam sleeping mat are provided. Your guides will instruct and coach you on tent set-up and break-down, and help if needed. A kitchen tarp will offer space for gathering in the evenings to eat and relax with solar lanterns if needed for the season (Patagonia summers have long daylight hours). Your guides will spearhead cooking hot dinners and breakfasts, served here, and snacks and purified water will also be available throughout the mornings and evenings. Bathroom facilities are rustic and minimal. Each of the two backcountry camps is in a stunning location with glacier views.

Frontcountry Camps

At these established frontcountry campgrounds, you will have a 3-season camping tent. Ground sheet, fly sheet, vestibule and closed-cell foam sleeping mat are provided. Your guides will instruct and coach you on tent set-up and break-down, and help if needed. A covered cook shelter with picnic tables and benches will offer space for gathering in the evenings to eat and relax with solar lanterns if needed for the season (Patagonia summers have long daylight hours). Your guides will spearhead cooking hot dinners and breakfasts, served here, and snacks and purified water will also be available throughout the mornings and evenings. Bathroom facilities include flush toilets and solar showers.

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Accommodation Details

Patagonia 47g

Located on the shores of Lake General Carrera, Patagonia 47g offers comfortable rooms with private bathrooms. The lodge is equipped with heating, free toiletries, a flat-screen TV, a dining area, and a fully equipped kitchen with a wood-burning oven.

Amenities: Flat-screen TV, Kitchen

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Included:

- ▶ Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- ▶ All meals as listed in the itinerary
- ▶ All ground transportation
- ▶ Airport transfer on departure day
- ▶ Guided sightseeing and activities as indicated in the itinerary
- ▶ Entrance fees for sites listed in the itinerary
- ▶ Drinking water available from taps to refill personal bottles
- ▶ Soft drinks, tea, and coffee at meals
- ▶ Snacks in vehicles
- ▶ Gratuities for drivers, hotel staff, and wait staff

Not Included:

- ▶ International airfare to and from Balmain
- ▶ Optional activities
- ▶ Meals not specified in the itinerary
- ▶ Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- ▶ Mandatory travel insurance to cover any evacuation and medical expenses incurred while abroad
- ▶ Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- ▶ Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- ▶ Items of a personal nature
- ▶ Gratuities for guides, porters, and additional support staff

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Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellation must be made in writing to AdventureWomen, LLC (email will be accepted). Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date.

- For cancellations received 89-60 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the package price is non-refundable and non-transferable.

- For cancellations received 59-0 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the package price is non-refundable and non-transferable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase **trip cancellation insurance** to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Switching Trips

You can transfer your deposit to another trip with no additional fee if you notify us within 120 days of the original trip departure date. We can hold your deposit for up to six months as a credit. Failure to book a new trip within this timeframe will result in the forfeiture of your deposit.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen trips.

Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today

We define “adventure travel” as travel in which one actively participates, as opposed to a “tour,” in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes trips all over the world for women who want an active, out of the ordinary experience, and meet new friends. **Most of all, we want our trips to be fun!** In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure trips, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. Being on time is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!