



Patagonia: Expedition and Cultural Exploration

DURATION | 10 Days

TRIP LEVEL | Challenging

Trip Overview

Immerse yourself in the breathtaking landscapes and rich history of Patagonia on this unforgettable trekking expedition. Utilizing horses to lighten our loads and deepen our cultural connection, we journey through farms and mountains before exploring Patagonia National Park's conservation achievements. Our trek begins by winding through traditional Patagonian campo and ascending into the mountains, grateful for our horses as we reach a stunning campsite overlooking the Jeinimeni mountains, where we'll engage with a gaucho tending sheep and enjoy a delicious camp dinner by the fire. As we climb a dramatic plateau, we'll take in sweeping views of Lago General Carrera and the Northern Patagonian Ice Field, hiking through unique rock formations and lush meadows. The final leg of our horse-supported journey leads us through glacial valleys back toward Lago General Carrera, culminating in a celebratory asado at La Naviera. After a night of relaxation at a luxurious lodge, we'll tackle a dramatic 9-mile loop hike in Patagonia National Park, with options for a challenging finale or a scenic grassland trek. Finally, we'll drive the iconic Carretera Austral, soaking in the stunning landscapes before bidding farewell at Balmaceda airport.

Trip Highlights

- Embark on an unforgettable journey through some of the most pristine landscapes in South America.
- Experience the breathtaking beauty of Patagonia National Park as you traverse plateaus, lush beech forests, expansive grasslands, glacial valleys, and stunning red mountains, all while soaking in panoramic views that will leave you in awe.
- Immerse yourself in the charm of camp life at idyllic sites, before rejuvenating at a selection of well-appointed lodges that combine comfort with stunning surroundings.

Map View



Trip Itinerary



Day 1

Arrival in Chile

Welcome to Chile! Arrive at Balmaceda Airport (BBA) and prepare for your exciting adventure ahead. You'll receive transfer instructions to the Patagonia House in Coyhaique closer to your departure date. After checking in at the hotel, gather in the evening for a warm welcome dinner and orientation, setting the stage for the incredible journey that awaits.

Meals: dinner | Overnight: Patagonia House



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

Trip Itinerary



Day 2

Kick Off Your Patagonia Expedition

Get ready to embark on your Patagonia adventure! You'll travel south along the historic Carretera Austral, enjoying a scenic 5-hour drive to the shores of Lago General Carrera, the second-largest lake in South America. After a delicious midday lunch, settle into your accommodation outside the quaint town of Puerto Guadal. Shake off your travel fatigue with a leisurely 2-3 mile walk, soaking in the serene surroundings. Today's Walk: 2-3 miles on a flat walking track, 1.5 hours

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Vientos del Sur



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



Trip Itinerary



Day 3

Meet the Horses and Begin Your Trek

After a hearty breakfast, it's time to pack up and head into the mountains! Meet the local families and horses that will support your trek as you organize your food and gear. Your adventure begins with a winding path through a traditional Patagonian campo before ascending into the mountains, where the horses will lighten your load. Arrive at your campsite, offering stunning views of the Jeinineni mountains, and enjoy an evening by the fire, sharing stories of 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.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Backcountry Camps



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.

Trip Itinerary



Day 4

Ascend to Dramatic Plateaus

Following breakfast, embark on a day of exploration as you climb to a dramatic plateau. On clear days, breathtaking views of Lago General Carrera and the Northern Patagonian Ice Field await you. Spend the day hiking above treeline, marveling at unusual rock formations before descending into a lush valley surrounded by hanging glaciers. Your supplies will arrive via horse, and you'll set up base camp at the idyllic Pampa Zorro for the next two nights, gathering later to learn 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.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Backcountry Camps



Trip Itinerary



Day 5

Discover Valle Chacabuco

From your base camp in Pampa Zorro, venture uphill to a stunning pass overlooking Valle Chacabuco, the heart of Patagonia National Park. Here, the walking options are endless, depending on the group's energy and weather conditions. Enjoy a day of exploration in the open alpine terrain, soaking in the awe-inspiring landscapes surrounding you, before returning to camp for a well-deserved evening of relaxation and camaraderie. 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.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Backcountry Camps



Trip Itinerary



Day 6

Complete the Horse-Supported Loop

On the final day of your horse-supported loop, traverse beautiful southern beech forests and glacial valleys as you make your way back toward Lago General Carrera. Approaching your pick-up point, you'll return to the enchanting land of Patagonian campos. After completing your longest hike of the journey, enjoy a traditional asado and celebratory feast at your accommodation, reminiscing about the unforgettable experiences you've shared. Today's Hike: 11 miles, 6-8 hours, 100 ft. elevation gain, mix of 4x4 track and dirt horse trail.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Vientos del Sur



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



Trip Itinerary



Day 7

Recharge at the Ranch

After a refreshing night's sleep, enjoy hot showers and comfortable beds. Spend your morning by the shores of Lago General Carrera, where you can hike with stunning views of the Northern Patagonian Icefield and Patagonia's highest peak, Monte San Valentin. If the weather permits, take a refreshing dip in the pristine blue waters! Gather for a hearty lunch, and in the afternoon, choose from various shorter or longer hikes around the ranch. As evening falls, savor another traditional Patagonian dinner and enjoy stargazing under the clear night sky. Today's Hike: Various options, from 3-8 miles, mostly on dirt paths and 4x4 tracks.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Vientos del Sur



Trip Itinerary



Day 8

Hike Through Patagonia National Park

After an early breakfast, transition to the heart of Patagonia National Park. Drive to the Aviles Valley Trailhead, where you'll set off on a dramatic 9-mile loop hike through the colorful red mountains and glacially formed plateaus unique to this valley. Experience the diverse landscapes and natural beauty that make Patagonia so captivating, as you traverse established trails with stunning views all around.

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

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Frontcountry Camps



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.



Trip Itinerary



Day 9

Final Hikes in Patagonia National Park

On your last day in Patagonia National Park, choose between two exhilarating hiking options. For those seeking a challenge, tackle the stunning 12-mile Lagunas Altas loop, known as one of Patagonia's finest trails, featuring panoramic views and varied terrain.

Alternatively, opt for a shorter 7-mile hike through expansive grasslands to a newly built suspension bridge overlooking a river canyon.

Afterward, transition to a lodge in Puerto Guadal for a farewell dinner, celebrating the incredible experiences of your journey. 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.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Patagonia 47g



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: flatscreen TV, Kitchen



Trip Itinerary



Day 10

Farewell and Scenic Journey North

Awake early for the final leg of your adventure, heading north along the Carretera Austral, often hailed as one of the world's greatest road trips. Enjoy a picturesque 6–7-hour drive alongside the turquoise Baker River and near the Northern Patagonian Ice Field before arriving at Balmaceda Airport (BBA) in time for afternoon flights. Please ensure your return flight is scheduled for after 3 PM, allowing you to soak in the final moments of this breathtaking journey.

What's Included

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- 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 Balmaceda
- 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

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.

