

New Kayaker Week

Beginner Kayak School Course
in Patagonia, Chile



Patagonia Kayak School: New Kayaker Week

This course is meant for beginner kayaking students, or experienced kayakers that wish to strengthen their technique.

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Arrival and Introductions

Arrive at either of our entry points in Puerto Montt, Chile or Esquel, Argentina, the gateway to Patagonia. Connect with our paddling school representative and travel to the remote ocean-side town of Chaiten, surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and majestic mountains. You will find your accommodations at our comfortable inn and town cabins, settling in with an early snack. Before dinner we meet for introductions and a classroom session to become familiar with your kayaks, equipment, and river safety procedures. Unwind from your trip and your first day of instruction with a hearty welcome dinner at our Chaiten hosteria.

Day 2: Termas del Amarillo – Hot springs

Early wake up call and breakfast. Introductions to getting in and out of your kayaks and rolling. We drive 30 minutes to the hot springs and spend the morning laying the foundations for your kayak roll. An explanation of each kayak roll, and which best suits you, will be the focus of the day. In the afternoon, we put in on the Rio Negro on a flat-water section to learn the basic stroke techniques. After a couple of hours of paddling, return to our hosteria to refresh, and a trip around Chaiten and its cultural museum.

Day 3: Termas and Introduction to the Futaleufu Valley

Our last early morning, with a return to the hot springs to strengthen our rolls before setting off to Futaleufu. Our students will be rolling now and we spend the final session adjusting techniques and adding the finishing touches to your moves. In the early afternoon, we pack up and head off to Futaleufu. As we arrive to the valley, we try our skills on the lower section of Futaleufu, a first taste of calm, big water, to test your skills. This section introduces you to your first Class II moving water with waves that will come over the bow of the kayak. All of you will try your roll in the calm water section of the river. After paddling this section, we drive on to town and check into the paddling school Lodge. Dinner will be waiting for you, as well as Pisco Sours and our staff.

Day 4: Rio Espolon and an Introduction to River Features

After your first well deserved late morning wake-up, we head off to a secret blue lagoon located on the edge of the pristine Rio Espolon. We practice our rolls in the comforts of the lagoon and once our confidence is built up, head off into the Class II/III moving water, our first real rapids that will test your skills of the last 3 days of the course. We will practice the ferrying technique, crossing the Espolon several times, as well as strengthen our ability to identify river features such as tongues, waves, holes, and eddies. We will get our first chance to surf our first standing wave, on a completely safe part of the river.

Day 5: Graduation Day

Today is our graduation day for our New Kayaker- Lite class. We will let you loose, and go paddle the entire Rio Espolon, allowing for students to practice their skills in more radical environments, following their own lines, but having a professional safety net serving as a back-up. Each student will be monitored and advised on better techniques to emphasize in the future. After today, you will have the skills necessary to kayak Class II/III whitewater, as well as have the experience of having kayaked the Futaleufu. Not many can say that. A farewell dinner, and a ceremony welcoming you to the kayak community await you at the kayak school lodge.

Day 6: Departure

Wake up for an early breakfast and drive back to Chaiten, Chile and your flight to Puerto Montt, or relax for a couple of hours and take our shuttle to Esquel, Argentina. As you catch a final view of the Río Futaleufu; surrounded by hanging glaciers and snow capped mountains, take a moment to reflect upon all of the amazing sights and experiences of this past week. After all these years we are still stunned that views like these exist.



INCLUDED:

All meals, lodging, transportation, kayaks, guides and river gear while paddling with us. Round trip transportation between Futaleufu and Puerto Montt or Esquel. See the kayak school packing list for specific details. The actual paddling instruction program for your individual trip will vary according to the desires and skill level of your group, weather, or other factors.

TRIP OVERVIEW:

Experience Needed: None
Physical Challenge: Low
Cultural Experience: Medium
Lodging: Lodge, Inn
Comfort Rating: High
Days away from home: 8
Days with us: 6
Max Trip Size: 12
Price: \$1295.00 USD

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