



ExChile Greatest Playground on Earth!

2011-2012-2013 season

Last Update: 8/01/2011

<http://www.exchile.com/TrekkingPatagoniaFutaPaine.html>

Trip Name: Futaleufu- Calafate- Torres del Paine Trekking Combination

Group Contact:
Phone:
Email:
Guests:
Comments:

Overview: Combine an off-the-beaten path adventure of trekking Chile's Futaleufu River Valley with the granite monoliths of Torres del Paine. This trekking vacation features two world class Chile trekking destinations that offer two different ecosystems, cultural immersion and incredible views that are challenged by none.

[Overview Slide Shows and Video Gallery](#)

Day by Day:

Day 1 Friday: Depart your home town:

Fly to Miami and connect on an over night flight to Buenos Aires Argentina. Welcome to the warmth of the southern Hemisphere in summer.

Day 2 Saturday: Travel to Trevelin, Patagonia Argentina

Early morning arrival in Buenos Aires. Change airports and catch another flight to Bariloche, or Esquel Argentina. From Bariloche, a luxury bus will take you on a beautiful drive along the Patagonian lakes and mountains to Esquel. IF you fly direct to Esquel you can arrive in Trevelin with some time to enjoy the area. Trevelin, Argentina is a charming mountain village gateway just 45 minutes from Futaleufu River in Chile. Trevelin is serviced by ground transport (Bus or private taxi) from the Jet ports in Bariloche (4 hrs) or Esquel (40 min). Check into a hotel in this charming village and walk to one of several superb restaurants. Unwind, relax, and get a good nights sleep before the start of you trip 9:00 am the next morning.

Day 3 Sunday: Trek to Benedicto's

After a relaxing night's sleep at a hotel in the quaint Welch town of Trevelin deep in Patagnia Argentina, we begin this exciting trip with a quick shuttle across the Chilean/Argentinean border and into the Futaleufu Valley. We begin your first trek by walking downstream through green rolling hills and ranch land. Within several miles you will enter a deep black rock gorge. Our trail is cut into the side of the canyon, giving a bird's eye view of the restless, radiant turquoise Futaleufu River below. Several miles later the gorge opens into the remote Las Escalas Valley. We will

trek across this enchanting valley and enter an old growth, temperate forest of Coigue trees. Coming out of the forest, The walk leads us to a 136-acre working ranch set deep in the forest, overlooking the river valley below. Apart from the spectacular views, this self sustainable ranch, without road access or electricity is a marvel in its own right. There, you will be greeted by our host at a rustic wood crafted ranch that functions completely off the grid. You will get the full tour around the ranch, before sitting down to a feast of traditional Chilean cuisine. After dinner you can watch the owner spin his own wool and browse through his hand made products, before settling into your comfortable sleeping quarters. Enjoy a warm night's sleep in comfortable, homemade beds as you look forward to a bountiful breakfast and your trek to camp the following morning.

Day 4 Monday: Trekking - Throne Room to Campo Tres Monjas

After a full breakfast, say goodbye to your Chilean hosts as we ready for the second part of our Futaleufu Valley Trek. The Futaleufu Valley trekking trail continues downstream, rejoining the Futaleufu River. You will be able to trek to an overlook of the powerful Class V "Throne Room" rapid. This Class V + rapid is a whitewater power storm blasting through a narrowing in the canyon walls. After viewing this maelstrom from a cliff above, we will have lunch on a gravel beach on the side of a huge calm pool below with excellent fishing. The trail continues with beautiful green meadows and spectacular vistas of the rugged mountains. We arrive at perhaps the climax of beauty at the confluence of the Rio Azul and Rio Futaleufu. Here under the gaze of the Tres Monjas (Three Nuns) peak we will stay at our luxurious Patagonia Eco Camp. White sand beaches welcome us after we cross the Azul in tandem canoes. We will camp here for the night and enjoy the sauna, hot showers, masseuse and sit-down dining. Trekking in Chile doesn't get better than this!

Day 5 Tuesday: Morning Hike/ Rafting to the heart of the Futaleufu.

We cross the Futaleufu in our double canoes. Join the trail heading downstream for several hours to our put in just below the rapid Himalays. We jump in the rafts for an outrageous whitewater experience on the heart of the Futaleufu river! This is the most action packed section of whitewater - a virtual whitewater power storm! This section, from the Zapata swinging bridge to the Puente Futaleufu, includes five miles of Class IV+ rafting action. Rapids such as "[Entrada](#)", "[Pillow](#)", "[Tiburón](#)", and "[Mundaca](#)" with its must-see explosion hole, will keep you on your toes. This Class 4/5 section prepares us for the sections we have yet to do. As if this highly charged river trips wasn't enough, we'll take out in one of the most gorgeous sections of the Futaleufu, the Macal section, after we have ample time to soak in the beauty of snow capped mountains, glaciers and pristine forests on the lower section. After the trip we return to our Camp and take advantage of our sauna and massuse and work out any sore muscles you might have after a big day of paddling.

Day 6 Wednesday: Trekking - To the Terminator Rapid

Today you can choose how far you want to trek. You will walk downstream through open meadows looking down on the Futaleufu River. Our destination is the Terminator Rapid where we can enjoy lunch on spot made smooth rapids by the river. Here you will get to see one of the best waves for surfing on the river, and perhaps even have a demonstration from a passing kayaker. The power and beauty of this river is will awaken your primal energies and put you in the mood for more adventures. After a relaxing picnic, we will head back to Campo Tres Monjas another fantastic meal.

Day 7 Thursday: Trekking - Hike up to the enchanted forest under Tres Monjas.

Today we're off to trek toward the backside of Lago Lonconao and into the spectacular glacier ringed Rio Azul Valley. Our trek begins as we enter a cool dark forest and wind around the backside of the elegant and dazzling diamond blue Lake Lonconao. From here we will trek down along the Azul Valley until we reach the confluence of the Azul and Futaleufu rivers.

Day 8 Friday: Trek to Secret Lagoon/cross border to Trevelin, Argentina

Awake this morning and enjoy the last breakfast in Futaleufu! Today we'll get all of our luggage packed up before the trip's last hike. We'll head out this morning with a small day pack and head to the Secrete Lagoon. Our vehicles will be waiting at the end of today's trek. Our luggage will join us as we make our way toward the border on our way to Trevelin. Check into your hotel, take a shower and change clothes before enjoying your last night in Patagonia. There are a handful of outstanding and reasonably priced restaurants in Trevelin that we can recommend. Relax, recover and look back on the exciting week of trekking before heading back the following morning.

Day 9 Saturday: Bus to Bariloche/Flight to Calafate/Night in Calafate

Today after breakfast you'll board a luxury bus bound for the gorgeous city of Bariloche. The ride is beautiful, weaving through the Andes Steepe dotted with pristine glacial lakes and offering fantastic views of the Andes Mountains. The ride is roughly five hours in duration, leaving plenty of time to check out the city before catching the flight to Calafate.

Day 10 Sunday: Day in Calafate/Night in Calafate

Catch your breath and take a day off traveling for a while. Enjoy a leisurely day of shopping or just simply explore the gorgeous city of Calafate. There's an option for exploring one of the world's only non-shrinking glacier, Perito Moreno. Take an up close and personal tour around the glacier enjoying it by water or even hiking on the glacier itself! If that doesn't sound like fun, simply grab a drink and take in the beauty of your surrounding. Unwind all day today and get another good night of sleep before the adventure picks up speed again with tomorrow's but to Puerto Natales, where we'll meet our guides for Torres, enjoy a lunch and explore the Milodon Cave before arriving in Torres del Paine National Park.

Day 11 Monday: Bus to Puerto Natales (5 hours explore cave, have lunch) On to Torres del Paine National Park

Depart Calafate this morning on a bus headed to Puerto Natales. The ride will take about five hours as we cross the border between Argentina and Chile. We'll arrive in Puerto Natales, a small but lively town on the shores of Seno Ultima Esperanza - "Last Hope Sound". You are invited to check out the town, leave any luggage you will not need for the trek in our office, and finally enjoy a hearty lunch with delicious local food. The other stop is at Cueva de Milodon, a massive prehistoric cave where the remains of a giant ground sloth were discovered in the 1890's. The surrounding area is very scenic with plenty of wild birds to be seen. The day ends with an overnight at the EcoCamp in Las Torres.

Day 12 Tuesday: Trekking - Los Cuernos Trail

Our first day includes a short trek from Estancia Las Torres and the Eco Camp to the undulated Los Cuernos Trail (12km/8mi). This trek is the introduction to the Torres del Paine National Park, with an explanation of the region, common sights and wildlife to keep a look out for. At the end of the day, we will be reaching the Refugio Los Cuernos for our overnight stay at this remote mountain inn.

Day 13 Wednesday: Trekking - Mirador del Frances

The day starts with a trek (1 hr) over flat terrain to our Campamento Italiano and the wild Río Francés. This will be our starting point for our round trip trek to Mirador del Francés (1-3 hrs), offering a magnificent broad view of the lakes and valley below. We later descend 8 Km/5 miles (2-4 hrs) down to Refugio Pehoe at the turquoise Pehoe Lake. Our lodging this night will be our small Bed & Breakfast, with an incredible view of the Pehoe Lake below and the spectacular stars above. Trekking in Patagonia does not get better than this!

Day 14 Thursday: Trekking - Grey Glacier

Grey Glacier is our destination today, with a trek (4 hrs) that will leads us to the northern shore of Grey Lake. Our boat will be waiting to cross the lake, an hour trip, giving us ample time to marvel at this calving glacier while sailing alongside. Our return is met by our transport vehicle that will return us to our Eco Camp, crossing Torres del Paine and offering beautiful views of the park and the numerous guanaco herds that graze within this sanctuary. Our return is met by another great feast, and an explanation of the upcoming two trekking days, which are dependent on weather.

Day 15 Friday: Trekking - El Paine Massif

The best weather conditions define our choice, but ideally the choice will be the demanding trek (10km/6.3mi) to the foot of the impressive El Paine granite massif. Admire the striking sight of the gigantic granite monoliths (2,900m/ 9,400ft) and the unspoiled land around. This day will define trekking in Patagonia. Return to our Eco Camp, light-footed and joy-filled at this magnificent day, to enjoy the comforts of our luxurious camp and all its amenities.

Day 16 Saturday: Trekking - Paso Las Cornizas

The best weather conditions define our trekking choice, but ideally the choice will be the trek to the Mirador Laguna Azul (40 min) and then to the eastern side of Sarmiento Lake, a good spot to observe renowned guanaco. Later we trek (3 hrs) to the Paso Las Cornizas with an unmatched view of the Paine River Pehoe Lake, and the Paine massif (2-3 hrs). Our last dinner at the Eco Camp is celebrated with a traditional Patagonian lamb barbecue (asado), wine glasses raised to celebrate this fabulous week of trekking in Patagonia.

Day 17 Sunday: Departure

Wake up for an early breakfast and drive back to Punta Arenas, Chile and your flight to Santiago. As you remember your views you experienced 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. Connect on an international flight back to your home country.

Day 18 Monday: Return to your home country.

Accommodations:

[Eco Camp Campo Tres Monjas](#)

[Torres Eco Camp](#)

Price per Person: \$4295.00 USD

Special Flexibilities: Exchile will be flexible to make your trip a total success. The actual program for your custom trip will vary according to the desires and skill level of your group, weather, or other factors. Patagonia has constantly changing weather patterns that might affect what day is best for a certain activity. If a certain part of your trip is not possible due to danger risks and weather extremes, our experienced guide staff will work with you to figure out the best possible option to substitute for the weather complications. If you have any concerns, please feel free to ask us more about the situations and what is guaranteed on the trip.

Included: All meals, lodging, transportation, rafts, guides and river gear while staying in Chile with us. Round trip transportation between Futaleufu and Chaiten or Trevelin. All ground transport private and domestic as indicated in the itinerary, boat crossing over Lake Grey, 4 nights accom. at EcoCamp standard domes (shared basis), 1 night accom. at Refugio Paine Grande and 1 night in Refugio Los Cuernos, park fees for Cueva del Milodon and Torres del Paine National Park, one expert English speaking trekking guide, sleeping bag for the refugios if needed, transportation for your luggage within the Park: while trekking you will carry just your daypack.

Meals in Torres del Paine:

day 10: L, D

day 11: B, BL, D

day 12: B, BL, D

day 13: B, BL, D

day 14: B, BL, D

day 15: B, BL, D

day 16: B, BL

B: breakfast, BL: box lunch, L: Lunch, D: dinner.

Not Included: All flight and travel expenses to get to your trips and between your trips. Thus the flights from Bariloche and Calafate are not included. No meals or accommodation are provided en route, including time spent in Trevelin and Calafate. Tickets and insurance are not included in the price of the trip (it is mandatory you purchase appropriate insurance for this trip), voluntary tipping to guides and staff, items of personal nature, optional finish in Punta Arenas, optional ice trekking in Glacier Torre.

Trip Summary:

Season: Jan, Feb, and March
Experience Needed: Familiarity with camping helpful
Physical Challenge: High
Cultural Experience: High
Nature Experience: Maximum
Comfort Rating: High
Max Trip Size: 14
Min Trip Size: 2
Regions visited: Northern and Southern Patagonia
Lakes, rivers and sites: Chaiten, Puerto Montt, Futaleufu, Punta Arenas, Puerto Natales, Torres del Paine

Travel Summary:

Total Days away from home:

Futaleufu Trip

In:

Final Flight Destination airport: Bariloche Argentina
Trip pick up point: Trevelin Hotel Argentina
Trip pick up date and time: Sunday 9:00 am

Out:

Trip drop off point: Trevelin, Argentina
Trip drop off date and time: Friday 8:00 pm
Return Flight Departure airport: Bariloche, Argentina

Torres Trip:

In:

Final Flight Destination airport: Calafate, Argentina
Trip pick up point: Puerto Natales bus station
Trip pick up date and time: Monday 1:30 pm

Out:

Trip drop off point: Punta Arenas Airport
Trip drop off date and time: Sunday 4:00 pm
Return Flight Departure airport: Punta Arenas Airport

Lets GO!

[Hold your spot Now!](#)

Thank you,

Trip Designer: Adam Odoski & Chris Spelius

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