



**ExChile Greatest Playground on Earth!
2010-2011-2012 season**

Last Update: 22 October 2010

Trip Name: Rafting Trekking Futaleufu

Group Contact:

Phone:

Email:

Guests:

Comments:

Overview: If you enjoy trekking and rafting it does not get much better than this. This trip is based at our spectacular Eco camp "Campo Tres Monjas" complete with a white sand beach at the confluence of the Futaleufu river and the Rio Azul. Watch the sun rise between the impressive spires of Tres Monjas peak overlooking this pristine river valley. The CondorNest ranch is also available. You will be hiking for two days on remote trails with a stay at a remote ranch and a hike into a Huemul reserve to even get to our Eco camp. This itinerary also allows you to river raft the entire Futaleufu and with friends and family that may be focused on multi sport activities other than trekking, they can do what they like, yet you all join forces on the river.

Acclaimed as one of the most demanding rafting runs in the world, the Futaleufu River provides rafters the ultimate whitewater challenge. The river's name is derived from a local Mapuche Indian word meaning "big, big river" and it lives up to its billing in every respect. Since the early 1990s rafting in Chile has become synonymous with this river and it has beckoned an elite group of international rafters daring enough to tempt the Class V power of Futaleufu. The first time you connect to the intriguing power of this river you will know it is unlike any river you have rafted before. It has earned its reputation as The Greatest Whitewater on Earth!!

National Geographic International Adventurist: [Seven days to the Futaleufu - Trailer](#)

Slideshows: [Slide Shows](#)

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 through Huemul.

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. Within

several miles you will enter a deep black rock gorge. Our road 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. Here our trek starts across this enchanting valley as we enter a climb up to the higher levels through a series of switch back until we reach the best vantage points for amazing views of the Futaleufu River, as well as a tremendous waterfall and other beautiful vistas. This trek is not for the faint of heart, we'll be covering a fair distance and some altitude to boot. At the higher levels we come to the pristine lengue forest and the reserve for the rare huemul. We encounter a dramatic ecosystem change as we lose altitude. We ford a stream before, arriving at 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 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 & Rio Azul

After a full breakfast, we can take a leisurely morning or climb up towards the Huemul Reserve just minutes from this remote ranch that continues to the Argentine border at the peaks of the ridge that we see from the ranch. The Huemul is an endangered deer, one of the smallest on the planet. After lunch we 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 masseuse and work out any sore muscles you might have after a big day of paddling.

Day 6 Wednesday: Trekking - Climb to the Tres Monjas Spires

Wake up for early morning start and one to climb as high as you can get to the Tres Monjas Peak. This offers a spellbinding view of the Azul and Futaleufu River Valleys. If you are lucky you may even get a visit from one of the massive condors that nest here in the spring and summer months. Near the base of the peak you will get to experience the enchantment of the rare Lenga trees, which only grow above certain altitudes and glow orange in the fall when their leaves change. They are the Patagonian version of aspens to some degree, though they look very different. The peak itself defines the border of Chile with Argentina. Carefully trekking down, you return to all the comforts and excellent food at Campo Tres Monjas.

Day 7 Thursday: Rafting Infierno to Campo

This is the most demanding, committing, and hazardous section of the Futaleufu. The highlight of our Patagonia rafting program! To raft this section safely, the river levels must be correct, you must have rafted the "Heart" section with us and met all of our safety requirements. We put in at the Río Espolon bridge and raft to the confluence with the Futaleufu River. At the "[Gates of Infierno](#)", we enter the "Infierno Canyon" with several consequential and continuous Class V drops. After an exciting morning of rafting in the Infierno canyon, the river widens with spectacular views of Las Escalas Valley. After a section of mild class II water, the river returns to its wild side and we encounter "[Zeta](#)" and "[Throne Room](#)", two of the most challenging (Class V+) rapids on the Futaleufu. We will portage both. After the portages, we get into an action packed section called "The Wild Mile", which contains a continuous stretch of Class III and IV rapids. Futaleufu river rafting does not get any better than the whitewater we have just experienced! After the Wild Mile we arrive at the [Rio Azul](#) under the sentinel of the Tres Monjas peaks. Tonight, we are pulling out all the stops with a huge asado or open spit grill. We'll enjoy a fantastic last night at the camp with drinks, Patagonian lamb and outstanding company.

Day 8 Friday: Rafting Terminator Section/cross border to Trevelin, Argentina.

For our last day of rafting on the river we've managed to somehow save the best for last. We are taking off from camp as the rest of the luggage is loaded into our vehicles. We are headed to a section of the river called the Terminator section. You must have previously rafted the "Heart" section with us and met all of our safety requirements because the Futaleufu river takes on an extremely powerful nature, with the longest and largest rapid on the Futa, the "[Terminator](#)" (Class V). Rafting in Chile does not get better than this! Just below, we'll have to negotiate the hole filled "[Khyber Pass](#)" (Class IV+) and the [Himalayas](#) (Class IV), with perhaps the biggest standing waves in the hemisphere. If this wasn't enough, one final pass down the Heart of the Futaleufu will be sure to leave you with a day of rafting that you won't soon forget. After we finish this section, we will have rafted the entire length of the Futaleufu! Our vehicles will be waiting at the take out as we make our way toward the border on our way to Trevelin after changing into dry clothes. 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 rafting before heading back the following morning.

Day 9 Saturday: Return to Capital City

Depending on your connections you are now in Argentina ready for an early departure in a cab from your hotel to the bus station in Esquel for the trip to Bariloche and your flight back to Buenos Aires. A private transfer can be arranged direct from your hotel to the airport in Bariloche. If you have a flight from Esquel you have the morning to enjoy and buy gifts in Trevelin before your 2 pm flight to Buenos Aires and the connection back to your home country.

Day 10 Sunday: Return home

Accommodations:

[Remote Ranches](#)

[Eco Camp Campo Tres Monjas/tent](#) \$2895.00 USD

[Eco Camp Campo Tres Monjas/shared cabin](#) \$3195.00 USD

[Condor nest meals at Eco Camp](#) \$3395.00 USD

Price per Person: \$ 2895 USD to \$3795 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: Your described trip, guiding, instruction, activity equipment, local transportation, shuttles, all meals, wine with dinner, accommodations at our Eco-camps, cabins, ranches or lodges, while on your trip. We offer a free pick up on Sunday mornings at 9 am in Trevelin at your hotel, and drop off to your hotel in Trevelin, Argentina on Fridays at 9 pm. See the packing list of your activity, for the specific clothing that is required.

Not Included: Transportation to and from your home town, and your accommodations and meals in Trevelin, Argentina or alternate trip pick up point. You can reserve and prepay on the web for your transport from your final air destination, to and from your pick up/drop off point before and after your trip, or you can direct us to charge your visa card and do it for you. We highly recommend having Exchile make hotel reserves in Trevelin. (room capacity in this small village is limited). Expediciones Chile is not financially responsible for your travel complications getting to your trip pick up point and from the drop off point, HOWEVER, we will be relentless allies in offering our services to help solve any issues that you may encounter.

Trip Summary:

Season: December 6th to May 15th

Experience Needed: None

Physical Challenge: Medium

Cultural Experience: Maximum

Nature Experience: High

Comfort Rating: Moderate to High

Max Trip Size: 18

Min Trip Size: 4

Regions visited: Patagonia Argentina and Chile. The villages of Trevelin Argentina and Futaleufu Chile. All sections of the Futaleufu river, Las Escalas valley, Rio Azul, and Lago Lonconao
Lakes, rivers and sites:

Travel Summary:

Days away from home:

In:

Final Flight Destination airport: Bariloche or Esquel Argentina

Trip pick up point: Trevelin Hotel Argentina

Trip pick up date and time: Sunday 9:00 am

Out:

Trip drop off point: Trevelin Hotel Argentina

Trip drop off date and time: Friday 9:00 pm

Return Flight Departure airport: Bariloche or Esquel Argentina

Map: [Interactive Travel Map](#)

Travel Route Alternatives: [Traveling through Chile and, or Argentina](#)

Air Fare: [Online quote](#) +1.866.498.0530

Luxury Bus Tickets Chile & Argentina: [Information and reserves](#)

Lets GO!

Reserve your trip: [Credit Card deposit](#)

Travel Insurance: [Quote and or online purchase](#)

Sign up process: [Sign up NOW!](#)

Packing Lists: [Select your list to print.](#)

Enroute guidance: [Print this and take it with you.](#)

Type of Clothes ready for your trip pick up: Trekking clothes on or ready for quick access.

Thank you,

Trip Designer: Nick Fechter, Dave Carrs & Chris Spelius

Direct line to my Desk +1.208.629.5032