



ExChile Greatest Playground on Earth!

2011-2012-2013 season

Last Update: 8/1/2011

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

Trip Name: Futaleufu and FitzRoy Trekking Combination

Last Name:
First Name:
Email:
Phone:
in group:
Comments:

Overview:

Experience the best trekking in Patagonia and with this combination trekking vacation. First we will be trekking Chile' famous Futaleufu River Valley that will take us way off the interational tourist paths, for a true cultural immersion experience and then we will visit Argentina and go trekking in FitzRoy/Los Glaciares National Park. This combination provides the opportunity to get away from it all, as well as experience the different cultures of two different countries.

[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 Patagonia 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: Trek to Huemul National Park

This Patagonia trekking day takes us upstream to a charming valley that contains the endangered Huemul; a small deer like animal that resembles the fabled jackelope of the American intermountain west. This animal is rarer than any species you will encounter while trekking in Torres del Paine. In order to protect its dwindling numbers, the Republic of Chile has created a National Reserve in this spectacular valley. The Futaleufu National Reserve, managed by CONAF, boasts a surface area of 12,065 hectares (28,956 acres). It was created to protect the Chilean cedar tree species (*Austrocedrus chilensis*) and the Huemul (*Hipocalemus bisulcus*). The reserve is completely undeveloped except for the signs announcing your entry into the protected area. It is a real rare treat to spot one of these endangered animals.

Day 5 Tuesday: 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, massage and sit-down dining. Trekking in Chile doesn't get better than this!

Day 6 Wednesday: Trek to up to or Behind the Tres Monjas Spires

We have the option of an all day extra vigorous hike up to the spires of Tres Monjas or a less vertical hike into the valley behind Tres Monjas peak.

Option 1: 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 before we begin making our way to the border and on to Bariloche, Argentina.

Option 2: A hike into a valley with a stunning view of the Tres Monjas from the side. We enter old growth forests and cross a stream on giant tree fall. We can see the border with Argentina on a nearby ridge line. We can return to our Eco-camp in time to enjoy some relax time or continue slightly higher. On the way down we stop at a remote ranch that will remind you of the story book Heidi.

Day 7 Thursday : 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 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 8 Friday: Trek to Secret Lagoon/Last night in Camp.

Awake this morning for a hike up the hills behind our camp and around several seldom seen lakes. You will then walk downhill into the Futaleufu river valley for a lunch at the blue secret lagoon. Here you can swim and enjoy the dramatic views of the Futaleufu river back dropped by the Tres Monjas peak. A return hike brings you back to the Eco-Camp. At the end of the day we will pick you up and move you across the border into Trevelin to check into your hotel and a great Argentina meal.

Day 9 Saturday: Luxury Bus to Bariloche and on To Calafate:

We wake up and will take an morning cab to the bus station in Esquel and board our luxury double decker bus for our scenic ride to Bariloche. This might be one of the best ways to view the different landscapes Argentine Patagonia offers. After riding through the desert, arrive at the sapphire city in the middle of the Lake District, Bariloche. With its German charm and amazing nightlife, you'll feel like you're repatriating into civilization. Take advantage of all the city has to offer: great restaurants, amazing views and interesting pubs! Get a good night's sleep because we're flying out tomorrow morning for Calafate City.

Day 10 Sunday: Calafate and Chalten

Upon meeting our group in Calafate at the airport, a local guide will give us a general explanation about the trip while we have lunch; after this we have a couple of hours to explore the down town. From the bus terminal we embark on about a 4 hour regular bus ride to Chalten, The drive is on isolated dirt roads across the pampas and along the northern end of Lago Viedma. Chalten is a tiny outpost beside the National Park at the foot of impressive Mount Fitzroy. Once we've checked in at the hotel, its time to get a well-deserved rest, which will be needed for the next couple of days!

Day 11 Monday: Hike to Laguna Torre

Los Glaciares NP, Argentina

We do a full day hike along Cerro Torre Trail to Laguna Torre, an extremely pretty mountain lake with majestic Mount Torre in the background. After breakfast, we walk eastward, following the trail through beech forests and bogs to a pleasant encounter with Fitzroy River. We continue advancing and reach Camp Base de Agostini and then do a short hike to Laguna Torre, escorted in the west by Cerro Torre and the Adela range. Icebergs can be seen peacefully floating on Laguna Torre as the wind pushes them to the coast. We stop at different points to take in the magnificent view and enjoy a picnic. Later, we return to Chalten following the same trail. There is an optional day trip for those wanting to trek on Torre Glacier. Those taking this exciting option get up earlier and do it apart from the main group. Upon returning from the trek, the evening is free for you to enjoy a delicious dinner at one of Chalten's cozy restaurants.

Day 12 Tuesday: The Challenge: Monte Fitzroy, Mountain of Mountains

Los Glaciares NP, Argentina

Today's trek is to Laguna Los Tres with the best available view of Monte Fitzroy - THE landmark in Los Glaciares NP! Once again, a big breakfast and lots of enthusiasm is required. We begin our hike by heading towards silent Laguna Capri, passing just beside its northern corner. Then we follow the Fitz Roy Trail up to Rio Blanco, passing Poicenot, the mountaineering camp. Finally, a short but steep trail will take us to Laguna de Los Tres to take in one of the park's most marvelous natural scenes! The turquoise-blue of the Lagoon is a stunning sight and this is of course is magnified by the accompanying view of Fitz Roy's spires and glaciers. You will probably experience a Torres del Paine flashback. If Torres del Paine is the king mountain of Patagonia, Fitz Roy is surely the beautiful queen! Time for a picnic. In such a memorable place the food can not help but taste better than ever! When everyone is ready, we will hike back to Laguna Capri and continue along the trail back to tiny Chalten. We return with time to recover and enjoy our last night in this beautiful park.

Day 13 Wednesday: Last steps in Chalten

Los Glaciares NP, Argentina

This morning we will trek to Loma del Pliegue Tumbado and we will have covered the best spots of the Park. After some hours of challenging trek we will reach the western bank of the Massif with superb views of Cerro Torre and the peaks around Mount Fitzroy. We come back to Chalten in the afternoon to sadly prepare our luggage and start our way back to Calafate. We are transferred to the terminal and board the regular bus back to Calafate, following the same road filled with Argentinean pampas that welcomed us some days ago. We will arrive in Calafate late at night with little time to have dinner. Nevertheless we will probably be exhausted after today's adventure and will go straight to bed!

Day 14 Thursday: The Big Daddy is on the Way: Glacier Perito Moreno

Calafate, Argentina

Once we finish enjoying an early breakfast we board the minibus and start the drive that will take us to Perito Moreno Glacier. After a couple of hours we will reach Los Glaciares NP and continue driving to Bajo de las Sombras Bay sector, where we board the boat that will sail approximately twenty minutes on Lago Rico reaching the south wall of the glacier. In the other side the guides give us a short talk about the formation of glaciers together with other interesting details about local geology. From this point we do a short walk to the edge of the glacier where we are given the crampons to be fitted to our shoes. Now we start the ice trekking adventure! Although we feel somehow strange walking with the crampons, it will take us just a few minutes to get used to it. As we walk ahead we face terrific views of the glacier and surroundings. Our trek finishes with a little ice bar serving whisky on freshly shopped millenary ice from the glacier, a cute touch. After the walk and having lunch we continue on to the footbridges with multiple view points of the glacier's superb north wall with its incredible cracking walls. Here we are left free to enjoy the surroundings at our own leisure. After the thrilling encounter with the glacier, we drive back to Calafate. This is our final night together and the tour leader will ask us for feedback on the trip. It's time to review our personal notes, socialize, look for a great farewell dinner and exchange contact info with new friends. After celebrating our last night we return to the hotel for a sweet overnight.

Day 15 Friday: Adios!

Calafate, Argentina

Today we finish this memorable trip, Adios Patagonia! Hopefully we will meet somewhere else. After having breakfast, a transfer will take us to the airport and we are free to continue traveling on our own.

Accommodations:

[Remote Ranches](#)

[Eco Camp Campo Tres Monjas](#)

[Hotel in Calafate](#)

[Hotel in Bariloche](#)

[Hotel in Trevelin](#)

Price per Person: \$3995.00 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 rafting in Chile with us. Round trip transportation between Futaleufu and Chaiten or Esquel. See the Chile Rafting packing list for specific details. The actual program for your individual Futaleufu Rafting trip will vary according to the desires and skill level of your group, weather, or other factors. In Calafate and Chalten: 3 stars hotels: 3 nights in El Chalten, 2 nights in Calafate City, all transportation as indicated in the itinerary, park fees, 1 bilingual escorting guide during Chalten excursions, 1 bilingual escorting guide during Perito Moreno ice-trekking excursion, crampons during Perito Moreno ice-trekking excursion-

Meals in FitzRoy:

day 10: L

day 11: B, BL

day 12: B, BL

day 13: B, BL

day 14: B, BL

day 15: B

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

Not Included: Single room supplement in Calafate and Chalten, single group supplement, night in Bariloche, all flight and travel expenses between Trevelin, and Calafate, insurance (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: October through April

Experience Needed: Physically Fit

Physical Challenge: High

Cultural Experience: High

Nature Experience: High

Comfort Rating: High

Max Trip Size: 14

Min Trip Size: 2

Regions visited: Northern and Southern Patagonia

Lakes, rivers and sites: FitzRoy and Los Glaciares National Park

Travel Summary:

Days away from home:

Futaleufu In:

Final Flight Destination airport: Bariloche Argentina

Trip pick up point: Trevelin Hotel Argentina

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

Futaleufu Out:

Trip drop off point: Trevelin Hotel

Trip drop off date and time: 9:00 PM

Return Flight Departure airport: Bariloche

Calafate In:

Final Flight Destination airport: Calafate Airport

Trip pick up point: Calafate airport

Trip pick up date and time: Sunday before 2:00 pm

Calafate Out:

Trip drop off point: Calafate Airport
Trip drop off date and time: 10:00 am
Return Flight Departure airport: Calafate Airport

Lets GO!

[Hold your spot Now!](#)

Thank you,

Trip Designer: Adam Odoski & Chris Spelius

Direct line to my Desk +1.208.629.5032

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