



CHILE:

BIKE PATAGONIA!

DURATION : 10 days / 9 nights
SEASON : October through March
DEPARTURES : Guaranteed with a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 12 participants
TRIP RATING : Moderate Mountain Bike Touring, Grade (II): This active, inn-to-inn adventure features 7 days of spectacular mountain bike touring, day hikes and sightseeing, in countryside with rolling hills at elevations below 4,000'. Guests use 24-speed mountain bikes and average 27 miles of riding each day on paved and dirt roads. Short day hikes of 1-2 hours are interspersed throughout the trip.

2006/07 DATES : OCT 20 - 29 JAN 19 - 28
 NOV 17 - 26 FEB 16 - 25
 DEC 08 - 17 MAR 09 - 18

INTRODUCTION :

Northern Patagonia, also called the Lake District, offers some of the most scenic landscapes in South America. Situated in lush, temperate rainforest (similar to that of the US Pacific Northwest), whose western border is the Pacific Ocean and whose eastern edge is formed by the Andes, this region is scattered with hundreds of glacial lakes ranging in hue from deep azure to Caribbean turquoise. Set beneath impressive, cone-shaped volcanos, this gently rolling terrain is an ideal bike touring destination! The wide, fertile valleys are dotted with quaint, colorful villages, reminiscent of those the European settlers left behind in the Alps. These are ideal for sightseeing stops and meeting the locals. Inside the Valdivian forest itself, accessed during short day hikes, one encounters giant alerce trees (similar to the redwoods), coihue (a type of southern beech) and the famed araucaria pines, or monkey puzzle trees. In this peaceful setting, the loudest sounds are usually the splashing of waterfalls into clear rivers, the chirping of Andean songbirds, or the whir of our bicycles speeding down graded dirt roads. Supported by a fully equipped saw-wagon, guests on this exciting trip peddle through some of the earth's most spectacular scenery by day and spend their nights in comfortable hotels or charming country inns—an ideal combination for most travelers!

Following our arrival to Santiago, we connect to a local flight to Puerto Montt, then drive to Puerto Varas, the southern gateway to the Lake District. Our adventure begins with a tour of the village of Frutillar. The following day, we drive to Ensenada for a warm-up ride to Reloncaví Sound, on the Pacific Ocean. On subsequent days, we hike on the Osorno Volcano (8,725'), and bike into Puyehue Park where we enjoy an afternoon soak in the hot springs. We bike uphill to the Antillanca refuge, drive and bike north to Villarica and spend a couple days in Pucón—the Lake District's most active and popular resort. Our final day of both biking and hiking is spent following forested paths to hidden lagoons in Huerquehue National Park. Group members heading home transfer to Temuco for the flight to Santiago, to connect with international flights.

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DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 01 (SAT): USA

Depart the USA on an overnight flight to Santiago, Chile's cosmopolitan capital.

DAY 02 (SUN): SANTIAGO/PUERTO MONTT/PUERTO VARAS

Arrive in the morning and connect, on your own, for the flight to **Puerto Montt**. We are met upon arrival by our guide. After loading the luggage into our private vehicle, we drive to the farming town of **Puerto Varas**, where we check in to the Cabañas del Lago Hotel. After some time to relax (depending on flight schedules), we drive to **Frutillar**, one of the most pleasant communities in the Lake District, with its expansive views of Lake Llanquihue and the snow-capped Osorno volcano's classic, Mount Fuji-like shape. Settled by German immigrants, Frutillar has preserved much of its traditional architecture, as well as its old, German customs, including afternoon tea with *kuchen*. We visit the regional museum, dedicated to the colonizers of this area. Its interesting exhibits include immaculately preserved collections of nineteenth-century farming instruments and household artifacts as well as several perfectly reconstructed period buildings, such as a water-powered mill, a blacksmith's shop and a mansion set amid manicured lawns. Time permitting, we may walk in the Edmundo Winkler Forestry Project, managed by the local university. Afterwards, we enjoy tea and drive back to **Puerto Varas**. This evening we join our local guide for a trip briefing and welcome dinner. (D)

DAY 03 (MON): PUERTO VARAS/ENSENADA

This morning, we drive along the southern shores of Lake Llanquihue, following a scenic paved road, to the community of Ensenada, where we check in to the Ensenada Hotel, a typical, small, country-style lodge with historic appeal and superb views of Osorno and Calbuco (6,570'). From here, we begin our warm-up ride, biking along a paved road paralleling the Petrohue River. Our route passes beautiful green meadows, forests and creeks on the way to Ralún Bay at Reloncaví, a river estuary whose brackish waters are home to a variety of birds. We stop for a picnic lunch on the rocky beach overlooking the bay. Afterwards, we continue biking along a seldom-used dirt road to the fishing village of Cochamó. We expect to spot many species of birds as we peddle, and there are various lookout points for vistas of the Pacific Ocean and surrounding snow capped peaks. We drive back to Ensenada in the late afternoon. Dinner is included this evening, at a nearby restaurant. **Biking distance:** 27 miles (one-way); **Driving time:** 2 hours (B,L,D)

DAY 04 (TUE): ENSENADA/OSORNO

Following breakfast, we bike toward turquoise-colored Todos los Santos Lake, stopping en route to view the Petrohué Falls. These are not your typical falls, but rather, a series of seven twisting, black lava chutes through which clear, green waters rush and churn. The vegetation lining our path is fantastic, with species such as the nalca (a plant resembling a giant rhubarb with edible stalks and leaves large enough to serve as an umbrella), retamas and wild fuchsia. Once at Todos Los Santos, we can walk at the lake's edge, taking advantage of photo opportunities and adding to our knowledge of the area's natural history. Mounting our bikes once again, we ride back to Ensenada. Here, we board our van and drive north, up the slopes of the **Osorno Volcano** (8,725') to the Tesky climber's refuge (5,085'). From this point, those who would like to may hike up toward the lower snow fields for incredible vistas out over the entire region (weather & time permitting). The view of Llanquihue, the fourth largest lake in South America, with a length of more than 30 miles, is spectacular. On the drive back to Ensenada, passing through typical forests while losing elevation, we stop to see a secondary or parasitic crater on the volcano's slopes, called *La Burbuja*, or bubble, as its name translates from Spanish. Back at the Ensenada Hotel, we have time to walk the lake shore, explore the village by bike, or simply relax before dinner. **Biking Distance:** 28 miles; **Driving time:** 1 1/2 hour. (B,L,D)

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DAY 05 (WED): LAKE PUYEHUE

Early risers may enjoy the sunrise from the Hotel before breakfast this morning. As our journey continues, we ride along the eastern shores of Lago Llanquihue following a winding, dirt backroad, through dense Valdivian forests, to the tiny settlement of Las Cascadas, overlooking a black volcanic sand beach. We may walk to the nearby falls, according to group interest (this walk involves wading the stream that forms the falls and thus getting wet!) Then, as we continue biking to Puerto Fonck, we notice changes in the landscape as we begin to observe well-tended fields of potatoes, corn, wheat, carrots and other vegetables in the fertile valleys. We continue on to Puerto Octay, a picturesque village located on a quiet bay, enclosed by the Centinela Peninsula. Historically, this village was an important lake port in the mid-1800's, until the railway was established. We explore the town, visit its small museum and have lunch. Afterwards, we load our bikes onto the sag wagon and drive the remaining distance to Lake Puyehue (at the entrance to **Puyehue National Park**). We stay at the comfortable Termas de Puyehue Hotel and enjoy a soak in the therapeutic waters of the nearby hot springs. **Biking distance:** 28 miles; **Driving time:** 2 1/2 hours (B,L,D)

DAY 06 (THU): PUYEHUE NATIONAL PARK

Today we bike uphill, toward the Antillanca refuge, at the foot of the **Casablanca Volcano** (6,530'). A popular ski resort in the winter, the climb up this peak's slopes provides one of the best views of the volcanos Osorno and Puntagudo to the south and Puyehue to the north. Puyehue is Chile's most popular national park, created in 1941 to protect approximately 260,000 acres of pristine forest and stark volcanic scenery, 125 species of birds and 35 of mammals, including the puma, grey fox and pudù (the shortest deer in the world, reaching only 14 inches in height). In the lower forests, the dominant tree is the ulmo, and we also find the olivillo, tineo and southern beech. In the dense undergrowth is found the arrayan, a rust-barked member of the myrtle family, famous for inspiring Disney in the creation of the sets for the movie Bambi; and quila, a genus of solid bamboo growing in impenetrable thickets. Lunch is at the Antillanca refuge and those who wish to may bike back down to the valley. Later, we drive into the Anticura section of the park, following the International road that connects with Argentina. Backdropped by the Puyehue volcano (7,350'), we enjoy a short nature hike to the falls and cascades for which the area is known, most notably Princess Falls and *Salto del Indio*. We drive back to the hotel for dinner. **Biking distance:** 27 miles (round-trip); **Driving time:** 1 1/2 hours (B,L,D)

DAY 07 (FRI): PUCON

Leaving after an early breakfast, we drive along Lake Puyehue, past the town of Entre Lagos, and through an area replete with dairy farms and cultivated fields, to the Pan American Highway at **Osorno**. Our route now takes us north to Los Lagos and on to Panguipulli. Here, we mount our bikes and begin one of the most scenic rides of the trip. A dirt road leads along the western shores of Calafquén, an incredibly deep-blue lake, to the town of Coñaripe. At this point the road becomes paved. We continue to Licán Ray, known for its dark volcanic sand beach, backdropped by the impressive **Villarica Volcano** (9,315'), one of the most active in the region. We board the van and drive, or continue by bike - depending on the group, through typical rolling farmlands to **Villarica**, located on the southwestern end of a beautiful lake. We go on to **Pucón**, one of the Lake District's most popular destinations, a short drive from here, and check in to the centrally-located Huincahue Hotel. Dinner is on your own. You'll want to try one of the many charming local restaurants. **Biking distance:** 29 miles (all the way to Villarica adds 17 miles); **Driving time:** 5 1/2 hours (B,L)

DAY 08 (SAT): HUERQUEHUE NATIONAL PARK

Today is spent exploring **Huerquehue National Park**, a compact reserve of rivers, waterfalls, lakes and forests with superb views of the Villarica Volcano. Some of the typical birds in the area are the buff-necked ibis (locally called bandurria), southern lapwing, woodpecker, thrasher, torrent duck, king fisher and, on occasion, condor. Several hiking trails lead through dense stands of lenga (a deciduous southern beech) and pehuén, to hidden lagoons and alpine lakes. We return to Pucón in the afternoon for some

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unstructured time to rest or shop. The local wood carvings and jewelry crafted from Lapis Lazuli or other semiprecious stones are exceptional. This evening, we meet for a congenial farewell dinner at an especially nice, family-owned restaurant in town. Accommodations are again at the Huincahue Hotel.

Biking distance: 22 miles (one way)

(B,L,D)

DAY 09 (SUN): PUCON/SANTIAGO

The morning we are on our own, and the bikes are available for short rides. There are various other local activities we may opt for, such as rafting one of the nearby rivers. Lunch is on our own and afterwards, we drive to the airport in Temuco, center of La Araucanía region. If time permits, we will visit the weekly Mapuche Indian market there. Our guide will assist with checking in for the flight to Santiago. In Santiago, we walk a short distance to the International Terminal and check in, on our own, for the overnight flight back to the USA. **Driving time:** 1 1/2 hours.

(B)

DAY 10 (MON): USA

Arrive in the USA

NOTES ON THE ITINERARY: A flexible attitude and good physical condition are required for participation on this program. Due to the changeable nature of the weather in Patagonia's northern Lake District, this itinerary is subject to modification at any time. Biking segments may vary according to group pace and interest, road/trail or weather conditions. Since the group is followed by the sag wagon, participants preferring to cover fewer miles are welcome to do so, while those wishing to bike longer distances also have this opportunity. Single track biking is not available on this trip. Depending on local flight schedules, some activities may change at the beginning or end of the program. This program is suitable for physically fit participants, accustomed to outdoor activities, age 12 and up, and some departures may include families with children. Biking, driving and hiking distances, as well as altitudes, are approximate, and times indicated are NET. They do not include lunch breaks, rest stops or time to explore the area, take photographs, etc.

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|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2006 LAND COST: | \$2,875 p.p.d. (4-5 participants) |
| | \$2,625 p.p.d. (6-9 participants) |
| | \$2,425 p.p.d. (10-12 participants) |
| | \$ 495 Single Supplement |

2006 Land Costs are valid for departures through March 2007.

p.p.d. = per person based on double or triple occupancy.

SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Comprehensive **pre-departure planning packet** and expert travel advice.
- All **in-country transfers** as scheduled (transfers on different days are additional). Ground transportation in spacious and comfortable private vehicles with professional drivers—the same as for the support vehicle or sag wagon.
- Local and return flight reconfirmation, **in-country airport check-in and luggage assistance** (Luggage handlers' tips are included).
- All **accommodations in standard-class (3-4 star) hotels or Lodges** as listed (or at similar hotels, the best available in smaller towns) on a shared basis with private bath. Double beds for couples (primarily queen-sized) can be requested in advance, but cannot be guaranteed, as most hotels offer few rooms with double beds.
- Single Supplement provides single room accommodations at hotels & lodges. Due to the small size of some of the lodges we use, there is a maximum of 2 singles allowed per group. If you require single

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accommodations, making reservations well in advance is recommended.

- All **meals** indicated on the itinerary (B=breakfast; L=lunch; D=dinner). **Vegetarian diets accommodated** on request (advance notification required).
- All **guided tours & excursions** (as listed) conducted on a private basis by knowledgeable, English-speaking local guides (includes applicable entrance fees).
- **First-class biking service** including:
 - Knowledgeable and experienced, English-speaking guide.
 - 24 speed mountain bikes (Specialized - Rock Hopper bikes or similar brands with front shocks, safety mirrors, wire cages for water and handle bags. Frame sizes available - 14" through 21".
 - Sag wagon support (and a trailer) for carrying bikes, equipment, repair kits, and riders.
 - Bottled water available at all times.
 - If you bring your own bike, you'll receive \$100 credit towards your Land Cost.
- First-aid kit.

NOT INCLUDED:

- US domestic, International flights, nor local flights within Chile.
- Chilean airport arrival & departure taxes (approx. \$110 per traveler).
- Three (3) meals at about \$20 each per person.
- Tours or other services not listed on the itinerary.
- Alcoholic beverages nor items of a personal nature; such as clothing, equipment such as bike helmets or personal biking gear, laundry & phone calls.
- Tips to the local staff.
- Expenses incurred in preparing for this program such as, but not limited to, non-refundable airline tickets or traveler's insurance, nor additional expenses resulting from flight delays, schedule changes, cancellations, or missed connections.


We strongly recommend all travelers take out some form of **Travel Insurance**—plan information and an application are sent upon receipt of your deposit (sooner if requested). Policies with **Travel Insured International** can be purchased online through our website at www.southwindadventures.com/links.htm#insurance. **If you or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition**, you need to purchase this policy within 10 days of booking your trip in order to qualify for reimbursement of non-refundable trip costs in the event that a recurrence of the pre-existing condition forces you to cancel your trip (some restrictions apply). For more information or to purchase Southwind's recommended travel insurance plan, please visit the link above.

NORTHERN PATAGONIAN/LAKE DISTRICT WEATHER: The climate of this region resembles the Pacific Northwest of the USA with pleasant, but changeable, weather during the summer months (November-February) and cool, damp winters. Temperatures seldom reach extremes. Average daytime highs range from 60°-70°F on sunny days to the low 40's when overcast, and nights are typically in the mid to low 40's. As noted above the weather is changeable—varying from warm sunshine to drizzle to rain and/or sleet in a matter of a few hours and returning to sunshine just as quickly. Heavy or all day rain showers can be expected at any time during the summer season (the region receives an average of 72.6" of precipitation per year with about 280 days having some rain). January and February are the driest months of the year averaging 3.6-3.7 inches of rain, followed by November, December and March each with about 4.6 inches of rain. To ensure maximum comfort, clothing must be readily and quickly adaptable to such changing conditions.

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OPTIONAL TRIP EXTENSIONS: Participants with a few extra days may wish to extend their vacation to visit some of Chile's other impressive destinations. We suggest a 6 day/5 night excursion to *Easter Island* or a 4 day/3 night visit to the *Atacama Desert*. Extensions require a minimum of 2 participants and an additional deposit. Contact our office to receive the **2006/07 Summary of Trip Extensions** or view them on our website, click on *Trips>Bike Patagonia>Extend Your Trip*.

ESTIMATED AIRFARE: The Land Cost for this trip DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Round-trip **international** air from US gateways (New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Dallas, Houston, Atlanta) is approximately \$800-1,100 per person for this adventure. December 15-January 15 is a peak travel time and higher fares may apply. **Local** in-country flights ARE NOT INCLUDED, budget on approx.\$375-450 per person total for local air. Upon receipt of your deposit, Southwind will send you recommended air arrangements that match your land itinerary.

 **Please note:** International carriers offering service include; American, Lan, Aerolineas Argentinas, Varig, Tam, Northwest (Santiago only), United & Continental (Buenos Aires only). Airfares are subject to change at any time before tickets are issued.

HOW TO SIGN UP: A \$500 per person per trip deposit (payable by check or credit card) is required to make a reservation. You can call 1-800-377-9463 or reserve securely online at www.southwindadventures.com. Click "Book a Trip" and you are on your way! Due to the popularity of Patagonia, we recommend making reservations 4 to 6 months in advance.

Trip Reservation Form: Please send us your completed and signed form within 10 days of placing your deposit (online under "Forms" on our homepage or call Southwind). Upon receipt of your reservation form and once your trip is guaranteed to operate, a comprehensive pre-departure packet will be sent to you.

Land Balance: Payment is due at 60 days by Visa, Mastercard, Discover or check. American Express balance payments are due 90 days in advance. You will receive an invoice with your pre-departure packet. A rush service fee of \$150 per person will be applied to your invoice for reservations placed 45 to 21 days before departure.

Cancellation Fees and other policies are outlined under Terms & Conditions on Southwind's website (click [Book a Trip>Terms & Conditions](#)).

Save! Early Sign-up Discounts

Sign up 10 months in advance for **10% savings** per person*
Save **4% to 9%** for booking 4 to 9 months in advance respectively
Call **1-800-377-9463** for details, questions or to make a reservation

www.southwindadventures.com

*Discounts are calculated on the lowest published 2006 Land Costs

0607-bpaversion:Dec05

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