



CHILE & ARGENTINA

LAKE DISTRICT ODYSSEY

A Civilized Walking Adventure in Northern Patagonia

DURATION : 11 days / 10 nights
SEASON : October through April
DEPARTURES : Guaranteed with a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 12 participants
TRIP RATING : Easy/Moderate Nature, Cultural & Walking Tour, Grade (I) - A dream vacation ideal for families, couples and individuals who enjoy active days, wonderful mountain scenery, friendly locals, great food and outstanding accommodations!

2010/11 DATES : On request any week throughout the season for a minimum of 4 travelers

INTRODUCTION :

This exciting adventure features the best of Chile & Argentina's Lake District, one of the most arrestingly beautiful destinations in the world! Rolling hills and valleys caress the Pacific before soaring inland to snow-glazed volcanoes. Quaint farms and villages with strong northern European influences are carved out of dense, temperate rainforest, lush with bamboo, rhubarb and fuchsia. Dazzling blue lakes embrace tracts of unspoiled forest, rich river estuaries and flower-strewn alpine meadows, all showcased in some of South America's oldest national parks. Active days are complimented by nights at fine hotels and lodges, offering luxurious amenities, gourmet meals and excellent Chilean & Argentine wine.

Following an overnight flight to Santiago, Chile and connection to Puerto Montt, we travel inland to Puerto Varas, a charming resort town overlooking lovely Lake Llanquihue. For two days we explore quaint villages, tour museums, walk on the Osorno Volcano and visit beautiful waterfalls. Next, we cross the Andes, stopping for a night of sublime comfort within Chile's most popular national park, Puyehue. We follow nature trails in the shadow of the Puyehue Volcano and rejuvenate in the hotel's thermal spa, fed by natural hot springs. Following a visit to magnificent waterfalls, we make the International Land Crossing to Villa La Angostura, Argentina. Here we spend two nights at Las Balsas, a captivating resort in a tranquil bay at the end of the Quetrihué Peninsula. This award-winning hotel features gourmet cuisine and a full-service spa. We hike in the famed Arrayanes Forest or El Bosque, returning to the lodge by boat. Continuing to Bariloche, we hike in Nahuel Huapi National Park, based at the luxurious alpine-style Llao Llao Resort and Spa. An invigorating hike past lenga beech forests and fields of wildflowers brings us to a breathtaking overlook with views of the surrounding peaks. Flying to Buenos Aires in the afternoon, we arrive in time to experience a traditional dinner and tango show. On our final day we visit impressive sites in this lively, cosmopolitan city before our overnight flight home.

Chile & Argentina: Lake District Odyssey

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 01: HOME

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

DAY 02: SANTIAGO/PUERTO MONTT/PUERTO VARAS

Arrive early to Santiago, connect on your own to **Puerto Montt**, southern gateway to the Lake District. Reception and transfer by private vehicle to the resort town of **Puerto Varas**. The Middle European architecture makes this lake port a favorite weekend destination for the well-heeled, as well as for hikers, kayakers and anglers. We check-in to the Colonos del Sur Hotel and have some time to relax (depending on flight schedules) before driving to **Frutillar**, one of Chile's most popular lake resorts. This predominantly German community has expansive views of Lake Llanquihue and the picture perfect Osorno Volcano. Frutillar has preserved much of its traditional architecture and many of its Old World customs, like afternoon tea with *kuchen*. A tour of the regional museum, dedicated to the colonizers of this area, reveals interesting and immaculately preserved collections of nineteenth-century farming implements and household artifacts. It is also home to several perfectly reconstructed period buildings, including a water-powered mill, blacksmith's shop and a mansion set amid manicured lawns. We'll walk for about 1.5 hours in the gentle terrain of the Edmundo Winkler Forestry Project. With pleasant views of the area, the trails depict the forest in a natural and also a managed state. It is a great introduction to the temperate rainforest's incredible diversity of plants and flowers. Following afternoon tea, we drive back to **Puerto Varas**. This evening we'll have a trip briefing and welcome dinner with our guide. (D)

DAY 03: LAKE LLANQUIHUE/OSORNO/PUERTO VARAS

Following a scenic paved road, we drive by Lake Llanquihue today, first stopping on the southern shore community of Ensenada. Driving up the slopes of the **Osorno Volcano** (8,725') to the Tesky climber's refuge (5,085'), we enjoy incredible vistas while hiking toward the lower snowfields. The view of Llanquihue is spectacular, and at 30 miles long it is the fourth largest lake in South America. We descend through typical forests, stopping to see a secondary crater called *La Burbuja*. We continue along a dirt road to the emerald-green waters of **Todos los Santos Lake**, part of the famed International Lake Crossing. We can walk at the lake's edge, taking advantage of photo opportunities while learning about the area's natural history. En route, we stop to see the crystal-clear waters of Petrohué Falls thundering over basalt columns and through lava flows. Returning to the Colonos del Sur Hotel, dinner is on your own to try some of the appealing local restaurants. (B,L)

DAY 04: PUYEHUE NATIONAL PARK

Early risers can enjoy the sunrise from the hotel before breakfast. As our journey continues with a drive to Puerto Fonck, we notice changes in the landscape with well-tended fields of grain and vegetables in fertile valleys. Puerto Octay is a picturesque village 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 have time to visit a small museum before we drive to Villa Entre Lagos and onto Lake Puyehue (at the entrance to **Puyehue National Park**). We stay at the comfortable Termas de Puyehue Hotel with pools fed by hot springs (both indoors and open to the sky), and a complete thermal spa. This afternoon we visit the park headquarters and follow a gentle trail in the Puyehue National Park looking for native plants, moss, mushrooms, fungi, shrubs and trees. For the rest of the afternoon we have time to enjoy an optional hike to a lookout point over the lake or relax and take advantage of the hotel's amenities. The 1-mile Pionero Trail switchbacks through a dense forest, ending with a scenic vista over Lake Puyehue and the Chanleufu River. This well-marked trail has information signs posted throughout, and offers the opportunity to view unique bird species such as Des Mur's wiretail, chucao tapaculos and the black-throated huet-huet. Aside from the relaxing thermal spas and pools, the hotel's attractions include an art gallery housing a permanent exhibit of paintings and sculptures, and a small antique museum. Special reading rooms offer selected literature from Chilean, Latin American and European authors. This evening we dine with views of the volcano in the distance, choosing from a variety of international dishes and an exclusive wine list. (B,L,D)

DAY 05: INTERNATIONAL LAND CROSSING

Today we drive to the Anticura section of Puyehue National Park. The country's most popular park was created in 1941 to protect approximately 260,000 acres of pristine forest, stark volcanic scenery and wildlife; 125 species of birds and 35 of mammals, including puma, grey fox and pudù (the shortest deer in the world reaching only 14 inches high). In the lower forests, dominated by the ulmo, we also find the olivillo, tineo and southern beech. In the dense undergrowth is the arrayán, famous for inspiring Disney in the creation of the sets for the movie Bambi, and quila, a genus of solid bamboo that grows in impenetrable thickets. Backdropped by the Puyehue volcano (7,350'), our well-marked trail leads

Chile & Argentina: Lake District Odyssey

to the lovely falls and cascades for which the area is known, notably Princess Falls and *Salto del Indio*. Afterwards, we depart for a scenic drive across the Andes. We cross the Puyehue International Pass, now called Cardenal Samoré Pass, at 4,311 feet. Our drive takes us into beautiful evergreen and deciduous forests, dotted with southern beech trees, including coihues and lengas. Crossing into **Argentina**, our route takes us to the beautiful Lago Espejo, (Mirror Lake) and Lago Correntoso (Swift Lake), part of the **Seven Lakes Route**. Time permitting, we stop to take pictures and for a short walk among old coihue trees, following an easy trail through a beech forest. We continue to the charming town of **Villa La Angostura** for lunch, a tranquil resort community of attractive cabins and hosterías tucked sporadically into the evergreens on the shore of Lake Nahuel Huapi. In the afternoon, we'll check-in to the Hostería Las Balsas, one of only two "*Relais & Chateaux*" hotels in Argentina. Opened in 1989, Las Balsas is nestled in the forest on the shore of a tranquil bay. The hotel is designed to fit perfectly in a woodland setting with large windows overlooking the water. The cuisine is a delicacy of wild meats, fish, vegetables and herbs grown on the property.

(B,L,D)

DAY 06: VILLA LA ANGOSTURA

This morning we stretch our legs with a short hike around Laguna Verde. Following an educational trail with signs describing the local plants and animals along the way, we have the opportunity to see unique species of trees, birds, insects, fish and a number of varieties of ducks. After our hike we walk to the port to catch a ferry for Quetrihue Peninsula to visit Parque Nacional Los Arrayanes. A scenic, often overlooked park located on the tip of **Quetrihué Peninsula**, Los Arrayanes protects one of the largest remaining stands of the arrayán tree, a member of the myrtle family. In the *Mapudungun* language of the Mapuche Indians, the peninsula's name means place of the Arrayanes. Our route follows an easy interpretive trail discussing the region's flora and birdlife. We walk amid the amancay or mutisia as well as coihues and ñires while listening to sweet calls of the diucas and bandurrias. This forest is unique with several trees reaching 60-80 feet (very tall for an Arrayán), and some are up to 300 years old. The trunk of the Arrayán is very twisted, with cinnamon colored bark which is very cold to the touch. The tree's flower is small and white and produces a violet berry. It is said that the natives brewed wine and made jam from the berry, and a medicinal tea is prepared from the leaves. Afterwards we take a ferry across the lake to return to La Villa for lunch in a typical restaurant. We drive back to Balsas, where tonight we enjoy fresh fare at the hotel.

(B,L,D)

DAY 07: BARILOCHE/LLAO LLAO

Today, weather permitting, we can take a short hike to the Belvedere lookout for a lovely panoramic view of the surrounding lakes and mountains. Correntoso Lake and River can be seen, as well as three important sections of Lake Nahuel Huapi, Brazo del Rincon, Machete and Ultima Esperanza, which are well known for fishing. The lakes are backdropped by the range forming a mountain border with Chile, including the peaks of Macal, Tres Hermanas, Pantojo (an old volcano), Matus and Campana. If there is enough time we may hike up to see the Inacayal waterfall. Then we drive around Nahuel Huapi Lake to the Argentinian resort town of San Carlos de Bariloche, stopping en route at the historic *El Boliche Viejo* restaurant for an old Patagonian style lunch. We continue to town to walk by the main square, perhaps to sample the region's famous chocolates or purchase some of the lovely wool products or crafts produced in the area. Later on we drive into the heart of the Lake District and the prestigious Llao Llao Resort. Situated in an idyllic setting, on a peninsula surrounded by mountain peaks, lakes, rivers, and forests, this "Luxury Hotel of the World" and state-of-the-art spa is the perfect ending to a spectacular day. We dine in elegance this evening, perhaps enjoying a traditional Argentine barbeque, fine wine and strains of tango melodies from the piano soothing the senses.

(B,L,D)

DAY 08: NAHUEL HUAPI PARK

After an early breakfast we drive up to Cerro Otto (4,610') for panoramic views of **Nahuel Huapi National Park** and a day of easy hiking. Designated as a national park in 1903 (the first in South America), Nahuel Huapi protects more than 3,000 square miles of lakes, sparkling rivers, trout streams, turquoise glaciers, rocky, snow-capped peaks, dense forests, and waterfalls. Following a winding and scenic road for about 1 hour, we arrive to the Berghof Hut and Museum. This is the house where Otto Meiling, a pioneer climber to the region, used to live. Walking by lenga beech forests and fields of wildflowers we look for amancays. Legend says that the red streaks on the upper petals of the yellow flower are the blood of a beautiful princess stolen by a condor. We keep an eye out for Magellanic Woodpeckers as we head to the Halzburg lookout (about 4 miles round trip). From the top we have spectacular views of Nahuel Huapi, Moreno and Gutiérrez lakes and the peaks of Tronador, Catedral and Campanario among others. On the way back we stop for refreshment at a 360-degree rotating restaurant before catching the 12-minute scenic gondola ride down to the valley. Back in Bariloche we enjoy a local style lunch at the Weiss family restaurant. Returning to the Llao Llao Resort, we have the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure to take advantage of such amenities as: tennis, spa treatments, fitness center, pools or any number of outdoor activities such as horseback riding (at extra cost) or water sports. With dinner on your own this evening, a perfect end to the day could be dining on international cuisine in the hotel's gourmet restaurant.

(B,L)

Chile & Argentina: Lake District Odyssey

DAY 09: BARILOCHE/BUENOS AIRES

The morning is at leisure to enjoy the Llao Llao facilities and activities before continuing on our journey. In the early afternoon, we ascend by chairlift to the top of Cerro Campanario for a superb overview of Lake Nahuel Huapi (Tiger Island in the Mapuche language) and Lake Moreno. Later, following a winding road through the Nahuel Huapi park, we stop by fields of colorful lavender, whose sweet scent permeates the air. Completing our circle, we arrive at **Bariloche** and continue to the airport and check-in for our afternoon flight to **Buenos Aires**. Upon arrival to this active, European-style city, we are met and transferred to the Emperador Hotel, centrally located in the elegant and exclusive Recoleta neighborhood near shopping centers and art galleries. This evening we are treated to a memorable Argentine farewell dinner and sultry tango show at one of the best venues in the city, the exclusive Gala Tango, with our local host. (B,D)

DAY 10: BUENOS AIRES/USA

The morning is at leisure for final shopping or sightseeing. The newly re-developed Puerto Madero district and the San Telmo market are nice options for individual visits. This afternoon we meet our local guide for a tour of some of the city's attractions, such as the Casa Rosada, Plaza de Mayo, Colón Theatre, the Obelisk landmark, *9 de Julio* (the world's widest avenue), the intriguing Recoleta Cemetery as well as Florida and Lavalle streets, with their many shops and restaurants. Later on we are transferred to the Ezeiza international airport, 21 miles outside the city, for our overnight flight home. (B)

DAY 11: HOME

Make onward connections to arrive home this morning.

NOTES ON THE ITINERARY: A flexible attitude and good physical condition are required for participation on this trip. Due to the changeable nature of the weather in Patagonia's northern Lake District this itinerary is subject to modification at any time. Walking segments may vary according to group pace and interest, trail or weather conditions. Depending on local flight schedules some activities may change at the beginning or end of the program. This trip is suitable for physically fit participants accustomed to outdoor activities age 7 and up. 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.

2010 LAND COST:	\$5,175 p.p.d. (4-5 participants)
	\$4,775 p.p.d. (6-9 participants)
	\$4,475 p.p.d. (10-12 participants)
	\$1,395 Single Supplement

2010 Land Costs are valid for departures through April 2011.
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. Tips for the luggage handlers at the airports are included.
- Boat and/or Catamaran transportation where applicable on a seat-in-boat basis (other travelers will be aboard, but our group will be privately escorted).
- Local and return flight reconfirmation, **in-country airport check-in and luggage assistance**
- All **accommodations in first-class (4-5 star) hotels** as listed (or at similar hotels, the best available in smaller towns) on a shared basis with private bath. Advanced bookings are recommended if you plan to arrive early or extend your stay. Double beds for couples (queen or king-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 in all hotels. Due to the small size of some of the hotels we use, there is a maximum of 2 singles allowed per group. If you require single 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). Tips for waiters on the group's meals are included.
- All **guided tours and excursions** (as listed) conducted on a private basis by knowledgeable, English-speaking local guides in each region (includes applicable entrance fees). On Day 06, the ferry return to Villa La Angostura is

Chile & Argentina: Lake District Odyssey

operated on a seat-in-boat basis (privately guided but non-Southwind passengers also on board). There will be two main guides throughout the trip (one from Chile & the other from Argentina). Southwind's travel style is to utilize professional guides who are experts in each region in an effort to enhance your overall learning experience and adhere to principles of Ecotourism.

- First-aid kit.

NOT INCLUDED:

- US domestic, International flights, nor local flights within Chile.
- Chilean airport taxes (reciprocity fee of \$131 for US citizens (\$132 for Canadians) paid upon arrival & valid for the life of your passport), departure tax (\$18 when leaving Buenos Aires).
- Four (4) meals at about \$25 each per person.
- Tours or other services not listed on the itinerary.
- Alcoholic beverages nor items of a personal nature; such as clothing, equipment, laundry & phone calls.
- Tips to the local staff.
- Expenses incurred in preparation, such as, but not limited to, non-refundable airline tickets, travel insurance, nor additional expenses resulting from flight delays, schedule changes, cancellations, or missed connections.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you consider a plan to help protect your trip investment. Travel insurance helps to cover; unexpected events prior to departure causing the need to cancel or change your dates, weather events or local strikes causing interruption or changes to your itinerary, missed connections, delayed arrival, lost/delayed baggage and medical or evacuation coverage. We provide a plan through Travel Insured International (TII), information and application are sent upon receipt of your deposit (sooner if requested). Policies can be purchased securely online at: www.southwindadventures.com/insurance.html. If you or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition, you will want to purchase the TII policy within 14 or 30 days of your deposit (depending on which plan you choose) to qualify for reimbursement of non-refundable costs if a recurrence of the pre-existing condition forces you to cancel your trip (some restrictions apply). Please call our office or visit our website for more information.

NORTHERN PATAGONIAN/LAKE DISTRICT WEATHER: 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 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, and about 280 days have 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. To ensure maximum comfort, clothing must be readily and quickly adaptable to such changing conditions.

OPTIONAL TRIP EXTENSIONS: Participants with a few extra days may wish to extend their vacation and visit some of Chile and Argentina's other impressive destinations. We suggest a 5 day/4 night excursion to Easter Island, a 4 day/3 night visit to the Atacama Desert, or 3 days/2 nights at Iguazú Falls. Extensions require a minimum of 2 participants and an additional deposit. Contact our office to receive the **2010/11 Summary of Trip Extensions** or view them on our website, click on *Trips>Lake District Odyssey>Extend Your Trip*.

ESTIMATED AIRFARE: The Land Cost for this trip DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Round-trip **international** air from US gateways (Miami, Dallas, Atlanta & JFK) is approximately \$800-1,100 per person. December 15-January 15 is a peak travel time and higher fares may apply. **Local** in-country flights ARE NOT INCLUDED, budget approx. \$450-\$550 per person for the Santiago-Puerto Montt and Bariloche-Buenos Aires flights. Upon receipt of your deposit, Southwind will send you recommended air arrangements to match your land itinerary.

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

Chile & Argentina: Lake District Odyssey

HOW TO SIGN UP: Submit Southwind's Trip Reservation Form along with a \$1,000 per person per trip deposit (payable by check or credit card). The form and deposit can be completed securely online at www.southwindadventures.com by clicking on "Book a Trip" at the top of our homepage. If you prefer, you can print the Trip Reservation Form and mail/fax it to our office with your deposit. You can also call us at 1-800-377-9463 to make payment arrangements (**your deposit will be charged and your reservation confirmed once we receive your Trip Reservation Form**).

Due to the popularity of Patagonia, we recommend making reservations 4 to 5 months in advance. Once your trip is guaranteed to operate, you will receive a comprehensive pre-departure planning packet.

Land Balance: Final payment is due at 90 days by Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express or check. You will receive a trip invoice indicating your balance due. Provided services and space are available, reservations can be accepted up to 21 days before departure.

Cancellation Fees and other policies are outlined under the 2010 Terms & Conditions on Southwind's website (click [Book a Trip](#)>2010 Terms & Conditions).

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