

ANDES MOUNTAIN EXPEDICIONES

SOUTHERN ICE FIELD CIRCUIT



DETAILS:

- Length: 10 Days/9 Nights.
- From Puerto Natales or Calafate
- Nights in hotel and tent.

About the Area.

The Andes are a relatively young mountain chain, created over the last 70 million years as the Nazca plate was slowly pushed under the continental South American plate. Over the last two million years the Cordillera has undergone several periods of intense glaciation during which much of its present topography was formed. The South Patagonian Andes are largely composed of granitic rocks.

Fifty million years from now, ice erosion may have completely wiped out the magnificent granite spires and crustal plates. Approximately 14,000 years ago the last ice age began to end, and the glaciers that had intermittently covered most of the Andes retreated into the Cordillera. This natural global warming allowed the plants and animals to recolonise large areas previously under ice.

Southern Patagonian Ice cap that is primarily responsible for the climate along South Patagonian area. This is the largest ice cap in the world outside north Pole and Antarctica´s area. The westerly sea air carries moisture that cools down as it moves across the ice cap. Waves and vortices create a meeting of winds from different directions, forming a convergence zone. Areas of low pressure and convergence zones result in thick clouds and precipitation. The ice cap may be responsible for katabatic winds.

Your trip.

Our expedition starts from Puerto Natales or El Calafate, where you will have a bus ticket to arrive at El Chalten, a small village located besides Fitz Roy mountain range.

Here you can leave all not necessary gear for the trekking. Leave a bag and we will storage safely.

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Our meals are varied and well chosen. Fresh and delicious food is always available in our trips. Vegetables, fruit, meat, chicken and even fish are among our menu, as well as pastas, rice, potatoes rich in carbohydrates. Wine, coke, beer, biscuits, cheese, crackers and everything we need to make our trip pleasant.

Trek.

This trek has a length from 6 to 8 days, including reserve days. In these days you need to use a backpack with enough room to carry your clothes, sleeping pad and sleeping bag. Common equipment such as tents, stoves, pots, food will be carried by porters.

Along the trip while we are walking, we sleep in mountain tents. All our meals will be prepared for our guide and staff.

Every day, we will walk average of 6 hours through a technical terrain composed by snow and ice. Our major challenge will be climatic conditions, that can suffer fast changes during our trip. Any combination can be possible between the wind, sun, rain and snow in a single day.

Patagonia do not have a determined climate, are rather unstable, mainly in the proximity to the South Ice Field, places that registers the lowest temperatures and the main precipitation.

Our equipment and clothing must be adapted for these circumstances, we must have special care with the selection of the clothes that we will use, which as main norm must suitably support to rain and the wind, and to be sufficiently comfortable for the warm days. We must be prepared to have in one day a four season climate.

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PROGRAM

Day 1: Arrival to El Chalten.

From Puerto Natales or Calafate, Regular bus to Chalten. Once in Chalten our guide will accomodate in our hotel. Dinner not included. In Chalten, there are several restaurants with all kind of international menus.



Day 2: Chalten – Los Glaciares National Park.

After our breakfast in our hostel in Chalten, we drive to río Eléctrico, located 15 kilometers from Chalten. Here is where we start our trek through a beech forest trees like Lengas and Coihue, after 3 hours walking go into a glacier rock valley, cross Pollone river and then walk at one side of Lago Electrico we arrive at “la Playita”, place for our camping. Set up our tents. Snack and dinner.

Total 6 hours.



Day 3: Paso Marconi - Eduardo Garcia Soto refuge.

Breakfast. Today we goes over the Glacier. Ropes and crampons ready to use in our first day walking on the ice. We will hike up the Marconi glacier to arrive at the big plateau of the Ice Field. Along the day we will discover Fitz Roy peak, Piergiorgio, Pollone and finally arrive at the ice cap with a vast view of all this white /mountain landscape. Night at Refugio Garcia Soto (Chile). Snack and dinner.

Total 7 hours.



Day 4: Circo de los altares.

Breakfast. Today we will use our snow shoes. Walking south near Fitz Roy massif until arrive at valley of Circo de los Altares. This is a place surrounded by craggy mountains. Great view of Cerro Torre and his magnificent snow cover at top. Set up our camp. Snack and dinner.

Total 5-6 hours.



Day 5: Laguna Ferrari camp.

Breakfast. Today, we continue our trip towards south, over the glacier and besides

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Fitz Roy massif. Spectacular day in a clear day conditions. We walk with our snow shoes for over 4 hours until arrive at Viedma moraine. Here we will take off our snow equipment and take our regular trekking shoes and continue until Laguna Ferrari. Set up our camp. Snack and dinner.
Total 6 hours

Day 6: Río Tunel camp.

Breakfast. From Laguna Ferrari we hike up until altitude of 1.500m, to reach the mountain pass. Here is our exit gate of Southern Ice Field valley, here is Paso del Viento (mountain pass), continue down and cross Tunel River. After that, we continue our trek down until a Nothofagus forest. Set up our camp sheltered by trees. Snack and dinner.

Total 6-7 hours.



Day 7: El Chaltén.

Breakfast. From our camp we start our last trek day to arrive at our starting point, El Chalten. Six hours walk crossing forest and typical Patagonian fields (Pampas). Arrive at our cozy room. Dinner not included.

Total 6 hours.



Day 8-9: Reserve extra days.

We reserve two days in case of bad weather.

If we arrive at day 8 at Chalten without using extra days, extra hotel nights and meals in Chalten are not include in our budget.



Day 10: Chalten - Calafate - Puerto Natales.

Breakfast at the hotel. 8:00am, regular bus to El Calafate and then change bus to Puerto Natales (Chile).

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Service includes:

- Mountain Guide
- Porter for common gear
- Two hotel nights in El Chalten, with breakfast (Double room), Single supplement USD\$ 90.-
- Nights in tent during the trek
- Regular bus to El Calafate and return.
- Los Glaciares National Park entrance fee
- All meals during the trek (Breakfast, box lunch, dinner)
- Radio communication UHF and VHF
- First aid kit
- Mountain tents and Mattress
- Cooking gear
- Satellite phone
- Technical equipment such as harness, ice axe, shovel, rope, carabineers, ice screws, snow shoes

Service does not include:

- Flight to Punta Arenas, Chile or El Calafate
- Personal trekking equipment
- Accident and rescue insurance
- Cash for extra expenses
- Sleeping bag (available for rent)
- Dinners in El Chalten.

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PATAGONIA PERSONAL TREKKING EQUIPMENT

Upper body:

- Wind proof and water proof Jacket, such as Gore Tex or similar layer
- Fleece or pile coat
- 2 polypropylene "T" shirt long sleeve
- 1 polypropylene "T" shirt short sleeve
- Cap of wool or fleece
- Light Gloves and shell gloves

Lower body:

- 3 pairs of socks
- Lightweight polypropylene or capilene (Patagonia brand) long underwear bottoms
- Breathable and windproof pants
- One trekking lightweight pant (quick dry)
- Waterproof trekking boots

Personal equipment:

- Clothes for sleep
- Sleeping bag (-15°C)
- Articles of personal cleanliness
- Plastic bottle to fill up with water (1.000cc)
- Sun glasses
- Sun screen lotion
- Sun screen lip protector
- Backpack at least 70 liters of capacity
- Head lamp
- Camera
- Gaitors
- Trekking poles
- Duffel bag (for storage your extra things and leave it in our hotel in Puerto Natales)

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SOUTHERN ICE FIELD CIRCUIT MAP



Links:

Application trip: <http://www.andesmountain.cl/aplication.html>

Web site program: <http://www.andesmountain.cl/1G-South-Ice-Field-Circuit/South-ice-field-Circuit-Torres-del-Paine.html>

Thanks,

Pedro Marzolo

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