

SOUTHERN CROSSING TO ARGENTINA

11 days/10 nights

Departure airport: Balmaceda, Chile

End of the tour: Calafate, Argentina

Explore Southern Carretera Austral until its end and cross to El Chaltén through Laguna del Desierto, continuing to Calafate in Argentina. This is the best way to visit all natural attractions in Aysen and Chaltén and Calafate in the most adventurous way you can do it nowadays. Visit the marble caves, river Baker, glacier O'Higgins, Mount Fitz Roy and glacier Perito Moreno in Calafate, Argentina. A real remote experience with the best services you can get.

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Arrival in Balmaceda airport – Mallin Colorado Ecolodge

Our program starts in Balmaceda airport. You will be picked up by a Mallin Colorado guide to drive the Southern Carretera Austral, one of the most pristine places in the world, where the scenery is dominated by the Northern Ice Fields and lake General Carrera. After 5 hours driving, you arrive at the lodge, where a welcome dinner awaits you in the Club house of the lodge. LD

Day 2: Hiking Mallin Colorado Lagoon

After breakfast, we will do a hiking through a forest of native trees such as coigue, ñirre and lenga, with stops to view glaciers and lakes General Carrera, Bertrand and Plomo, appreciating spectacular views of the Andean foothills of the Northern Ice Fields. We arrive up to a wide plain where you can see Mallín Colorado lagoon, with a marshy surface. Pic nic on the trail, and back to the lodge in the evening. Dinner in the lodge. BLD

Day 3: Marble caves and Explorer's Glacier

After breakfast we leave the cabins and start to drive along the Austral for about 50 minutes to take a boat and visit the famous "Marble Caves" on the shore of lake General Carrera. After that, we continue through a recently opened way to visit the Explorer's Glacier on the Northern Ice Fields. This glacier follows down over earth, so the scenery where it located is simply spectacular. You can see it very near. We return back to the lodge to have a wonderful dinner. BLD

Day 4: El Maqui waterfall and Fossils of Puerto Guadal

After breakfast, you will start an excursion on the southern shore of lake General Carrera, first visiting the Maqui waterfalls, where you can get a very impressive view of the Northern Ice Fields and this huge waterfall. After that, starts a nice walk to high a high plateau where you can find marine fossils and get another impressive view of all the lakes and mountains that surround our area. It is a full day walk. You come back to the lodge for dinner. BLD

Day 5: Hiking to Leones Glacier

After breakfast and a short drive of half an hour, you will start a 4 hours walk through Leones valley in direction to the Northern Ice Fields. Wou will arrive into Leones lagoon,

take a boat to see Leones glacier surrounded by mountains, icefields and in total remoteness. Walk back to the car and drive to the lodge for dinner. BLD

Day 6: Tamango National Reserve

After breakfast, we leave Mallin Colorado Ecolodge and start a journey to the south of the south. We leave Lake General Carrera and start driving along river Baker from its beginning at Puerto Bertrand. You will visit the confluence of river Baker and river Neff. River Baker is the most powerful river in Chile, with 900 m³/s, its waters come completely from Lake General Carrera and river Neff comes from the Northern Icefields, so the mixture of colors in their confluence is a very impressive spectacle. You will continue to the south along the Austral Highway to the town of Cochrane. From here, in a couple of kilometres, continue to the Tamango National Reserve. This reserve is the only area where you can observe the huemul; Chile's native deer and highly protected species. We hike through the park, observing the abundant vegetation and fauna. During the hike we will enjoy a satisfying lunch in spectacular surroundings. Dinner and overnight in Cochrane. BLD

Day 7: Cochrane – Tortel - Villa O´Higgins

After breakfast you will start a long day in direction to the south. Short visit to the village of Caleta Tortel and continue driving to take a ferry boat and cross Mitchell Fjord, in direction to Villa O´Higgins. Arrival in upscale lodge with dinner. BLD

Day 8: Cruise to O´Higgins glacier

After breakfast, you will be driven to the small port to take a cruise boat for the whole day to visit O´Higgins glacier. Overnight in a local family-house specially conditioned for adventurous guests, close to the border to Argentina. You will get a warm dinner and sleep in middle of nature. BLD

Day 9: Crossing the border to Argentina, El CHaltén

After breakfast, it starts a 2.5 kms walk to get to Laguna del Desierto, cross in a boat to get to El CHaltén. El Chaltén is the paradise of trekking, very close to Fitz Roy peaks, a small and beautiful village. Lodging will be at Hostería El Puma. BL Dinner will be on your own in El CHaltén.

Day 10: Chaltén - Calafate.

Transfer in private vehicle from El Chaltén to Calafate, visit to Perito Moreno glacier with private guide and overnight in Calafate at Boutique Hotel Los Ponchos. B

Day 11: Flight from El Calafate to Ushuaia

After breakfast and check out, transfer to the airport El Calafate to take your flight to Ushuaia. B

Includes:

All meals as indicated in the program B breakfast, L lunch, D Dinner

All transfers as indicated.

5 nights in Mallin Colorado Ecolodge
1 night in Cochrane
1 night in Villa O'Higgins
1 night in Candelario Mansilla
1 night in El Chaltén
1 night in El Calafate
Navigation ticket to Glacier O'Higgins
Navigation to Marble caves
Private guide from Balmaceda to El Chaltén

Does not include

Meals not indicated
National flights from Santiago to Balmaceda
Flight from Calafate to Ushuaia

Highlights

Marble caves
River Baker confluence
Glacier Exploradores
Glacier O'higgins
Glacier Perito Moreno
Caleta Tortel village
Crossing from O'Higgins to El Chaltén (adventurous!!)
Mount Fitz Roy

Price: US\$ 5.610.- per person