

Wild Patagonia: 15 Days

Information Kit

Chile & Argentina: Ride Patagonia, a world of vast blue skies, deep blue glaciers and towering snow capped peaks.

"An adventure through the breathtaking landscape of ancient forests, tree-lined fjords, lakes, glaciers and towering volcanoes."



Winding its way through a pristine landscape of dense forests, snow-capped volcanoes, towering mountains, stunning glacial lakes, glacial caves and breathtaking fjords, the 1,240 kilometre-long Carretera Austral, Ruta 7, visits a world virtually cut off until the late 70's. It is Chile's most incredible and adventurous road trip often described as one of the most beautiful drives on earth and a landscape of world wonders. This immense ride will take in the very best of the Carretera Austral, deep within Patagonia, the legendary Chilean Lakes District, Ruta 40 and the vastness of Argentina's pampas.

Itinerary

Joining Day: Santiago

Your Santiago airport transfer will take you directly to our joining hotel, ready for an early start tomorrow. Today you will meet your crew for your tour briefing and welcome dinner.

Day One: Pucón

A short, included, flight from the Chilean capital, Santiago, to Temuco where it's a quick private bus trip to Pucón located in the shadow of the snow-capped Villarrica Volcano. Pucón is a stunning village deep within the legendary Chilean Lakes District and is famous for its foodie and adventure scene.

Day Two: Petrohue

We ride south through a stunning region of Chile and stop at Ensenada, wonderfully located on the shores of Lago Languihue. Today's ride is spectacular as we ride amongst verdant farmlands and forests of green and view the perfect snow-capped cone of the Volcano Osorno. We shall ride out to one of the most stunning lake in all of Southern Chile, Lago Todos los Santos where we shall overnight at Petrohué. Hopefully we shall see Volcan Osorno being beautifully reflected off the emerald green lake; it's an outstandingly beautiful spot.

Day Three: Hornopiren

We now enter Patagonia proper and a landscape of rare beauty. Today's ride hugs the shoreline of the mighty Estero Reloncavi, a breathtaking fjord with forest-covered mountains that tumble down to the deep blue waters of the fjord.

Day Four: Chaitén

We take two ferries today, the first from Hornopiren to Leptepu via the spectacular fjord, then it's a 10 km / 6 mi ride across the Huequi Peninsular to take our second ferry across the beautiful Fiordo Largo to Caletto Gonzalo, from here it's a 60 km / 37 mi ride to Chaitén a town engulfed by a nearby volcano in 2008.



Day Five: Futaleufú

Continuing south we turn off Ruta 7 to overnight at the amazing Futaleufú one of the worlds premier white water rafting hotspots. Today's ride hugs the shoreline of Lago Yelcho and traverses a landscape of mountains and valleys as we enter an incredibly steeped walled canyon dissected by the raging turquoise Futaleufú River and onto Futaleufú township.

Day Six: Puyuhuapi

We ride into a world of thick rainforest and southern beech as we enter the renowned Queulat National Park. The ride hugs the shoreline of the beautiful Lago Risopatron before arriving lakeside where we catch a boat across to the superb Puyuhuapi Lodge & Spa, absolutely remote and stunningly tranquil, our stop for the night.

Day Seven: Coyhaique

Today's ride is through beautiful mountain scenery crossing a high rugged pass in the Queulat National Park, a breathtaking landscape of virgin forest, fjords, channels, glaciers, and ice fields. We shall stop off and visit the amazing Ventisquero hanging glacier en-route to Coyhaique.

Day Eight: Puerto Rio Tranquillo

We ride through the mighty Cerro Castillo National Park, a landscape of mighty snow-capped granite towers. We reach the shores of the incredibly blue waters of Lago Gral Carrera before arriving at the wonderful Rio Tranquillo where we spend two nights.

Day Nine: Puerto Rio Tranquillo

Our first rest day allows us to visit the remarkable Las Cavernas Marmoles with its swirling patterns of blue, grey and black marble spectacularly set against the glacial blue of Lago General Carrera. We can also visit the fast retreating San Rafael Glacier.

Day Ten: Perito Merino

We follow the southern shores of Lago General Carrera before crossing the Andes and into Argentina. The landscape opens up and becomes the vast open, big sky, landscapes that Patagonia is renowned for.

Day Eleven: Esquel

We ride north today on fantastic paved, twisting, roads that makes for an exhilarating days riding. You will love these bends! The impressive views of lakes and surrounds will leave you breathless. Tonight, we stop for a restful night at the friendly town of Esquel located at the foothills of the Andes and home to the famous Patagonia Express, immortalised by Bruce Chatwins book "In Patagonia".

Day twelve: Bariloche

Continuing north we ride onto the UNESCO listed Los Alerces National Park, considered to be one of the most stunning in all of Argentina. We visit the small town of Cholila, where Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid owned a small ranch in 1901, before continuing onto the superb Bariloche.

Day Thirteen: Bariloche

Our rest day here means we get the chance to explore the incredible town of Bariloche. Situated on the shores of the beautiful lake Nahuel Huapi and ringed by 2,000 m snow-capped mountain peaks, you could be forgiven for thinking that you had just arrived in the Austrian Alps. Bariloche is famous for its chocolate, fresh air and breathtaking scenery. Why not take an afternoon ride around the lake via the renowned Circuito Chico or just soak up some wonderful Argentine hospitality?



Day Fourteen: Pucon

Today we cross the border and return to the Chilean town of Pucon, via the spectacular seven Lakes Drive. The ride runs along the shoreline of the stunning Lake Nahuel Huapi visiting the lakeside village of Villa la Angostura and wonderful San Martin de los Andes on Lago Lucar, before crossing back into Chile and descending through a forest of monkey puzzle trees into Pucon.

Day Fifteen: Santiago

We transfer back to Temuco on a private bus then take a flight back to Santiago for our final night.

Departure day: Santiago

Spend some time in Santiago or fly home, the choice is yours.

Ride Grade: 4

This is a grade 4 ride; grade 4 doesn't mean we are spending all day every day on dirt or racing around like we are on a Dakar event, it means we spend a few days on dirt roads. These same tracks are used by 2-wheel drive cars and trucks so NOT extreme.

80% of this ride is on pavement; some sections of pavement can be potholed and narrow and in the northern regions of this ride more vehicular traffic can be expected. Riders must be aware that South American drivers adhere less to road rules than we may be accustomed to, a red light is more of a challenge than a directive to stop!!

20% of this ride will be on dirt. The vast majority of dirt is hard packed and is used by heavy transport, so not technical or difficult however there are sections that can have loose gravel, washouts and can be rutted. We cross a small number passes that can be a little steep and narrow with long drops. Conditions can become a little muddy if there have been recent rains

Distances

The biggest riding day is 570 km / 360 mi with the shortest being 145 km / 90 mi. Most riding days we average around 150 – 250 km / 95 – 160mi. Although not huge mileage it is important to remember that there are a number of ferries to catch and endless photo opportunities and things to see. Two rest days are included where the bike is available for more riding if desired, (subject to any maintenance requirements). The total distance is approximately 2850 km / 1780 mi.

Bikes

We operate bikes that need no introduction here, the venerable BMW. Our fleet consists of the BMW F700 (including low suspension) / F800 & R1200GS. All bikes come equipped with crash protection and a topbox and late model with not too many miles on them.

Experience required

Some off- road riding experience is preferred for this tour, mainly due to the fact that we do cover significant distance off road, rather than anything being too technical or difficult. Co-riders can travel in the support vehicle at anytime, if any dirt becomes too challenging. Although not a requirement, Compass Expeditions does recommend an off road training course that gives riders, of all levels, the tools to tackle off road riding. Contact us for more information on training events and recommended schools.

All riders **must** have a valid motorcycle license.

Weather

We run this tour at the optimum time of year to be riding the Lakes District and Patagonia, when there is the less chance of rain, skies are blue, and the mountains are visible. The temperature is on the cooler side, ideal for riding, however rain isn't unusual on sections of the Carretera Austral, especially around the rainforests. As with any mountainous region weather is constantly changeable. Once we cross the Andes into Argentina wind can be extremely strong or none at all.



Highlights

- Lakes District town of Pucon
 - Breathtaking Futaleufú
- Ventisquero Hanging Glacier
 - Enchanted rainforest
 - Queulat National Park
- Mountains of Cerro Castillo
- Endless fjord scenery of the Carratera Austral
- Riding the legendary Ruta 40
 - Picture perfect Bariloche
 - Seven Lakes Drive
 - *PATAGONIA!!



Meals

The food options on this ride are extremely varied, all types of western style meals are available, even McDonalds, superb local seafood delicacies on the Carretera, wonderful Asado in Argentina are highlights. On all ride days, we include our legendary picnic lunches, prepared on the spot, in our mobile kitchen. Not pre-prepared sandwiches left festering in your top box all day. Our picnic lunches are wholesome, and filling and our selected restaurants offer both traditional and western style foods that we have used many times before. Of course, all breakfasts are included and those with particular dietary requirements are easily catered for.

Breakfasts: **16**

Lunches: **11**

Dinners: **10**

Accommodation

Our hotels are generally 3 & 4 stars and are chosen for their location, cleanliness, suitability for motorcycle groups and ambience. Some hotels have restaurants & bars attached. Accommodation is an important part of your ride experience and after many years in South America we believe we offer a superb mix of excellent boutique hotels.

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Accommodation: **16 nights**

Tour Inclusions

- Airport transfers
- Return flights Santiago - Pucon
- Motorcycle Rental BMW F 700, 800 & R1200 GS
- Fuel, ferries & Tolls
- Border paperwork
- Services of ride leader and support vehicle driver
- Support vehicle with passenger carrying ability
 - Non-alcoholic drinks on support vehicle
 - Breakfast every day, lunches and dinners on mentioned days
- Accommodation in excellent small hotels & resorts
 - Bonus night accommodation
 - Pre-departure material and route maps
 - Access to satellite phone, pay per minute
 - Entrances to all mentioned national parks

Your Responsibilities

Riding equipment

You will need to bring the following riding gear:

Riding jacket and pants: every weather event should be expected from cold mornings to higher temperatures as the days warms up, therefore a multi-layer jacket / pants are essential. The jacket / pants ideally need to have internal removable liners and have Kevlar crash protection and a waterproof pocket for your documents and small camera. Ideally your jacket / pants should be 100% waterproof or carry a set of waterproofs in your topbox.

Helmet: Your helmet should be full faced and of a good quality. Ensure you have a spare visor or replace before departing if scratched. Motocross style helmets are unsuitable for long distance rides, on what may be sometimes dusty surfaces, as you will experience considerable dust ingress. Internal drop down tinted visors are great, but not so if you need prescription sunglasses.

Boots: Ideally, motocross style boots would be best, but bulky and impractical to carry. When choosing a boot, it is essential to choose a boot that offers the most rigid ankle protection possible; ankle injuries are the most common injuries we experience. Pack a set of walking boots in your top-box for those off bike excursions.

Gloves: We recommend the use of both summer and winter (ideally waterproof) gloves, as the weather is extremely changeable.

Additional items: Silk neck warmer, great for keeping the wind out. Earplugs, great for keeping the noise out.

Travel insurance

It is compulsory to have travel insurance to tour with us. It just makes sense! Your insurance must cover you for any incident you may have whilst riding a motorcycle 700 cc and over. We have negotiated a 10% discount with various insurance providers around the world, who WILL offer coverage for you, for the activity of riding a motorcycle 700cc and over in foreign lands. For more information return to the "tour page" and click on the "insurance" tab.

Passport & Visas

Your passport will need to be valid for at least six months **AFTER** completion of your ride. Your passport should have at least one full page available, for each country you will be visiting. Compass Expeditions has teamed up with the world leaders in visa procurement, CIBT, who have created a special Compass Expeditions visa application page. They have offices in Australia, USA, Canada, UK, Mexico, Brazil, Singapore and numerous European countries. Tour participants can obtain their own visas if preferred, however, for a small charge, CIBT can obtain your visa and negotiate any issues that might arise. Links to CIBT / Compass page for visa applications, for other nationalities please contact us directly:

Australia: <https://visalink.com.au/compassexp>
Canada: <http://www.cibtvisas.ca/compass>
USA: <http://www.cibtvisas.com/compassexp>
France: <http://www.cibtvisas.fr/compassexp>
UK: <http://cibtvisas.co.uk/compassexp>

Most nationalities do not require a visa for Chile or Argentina. It is the participant's responsibility to ensure they have any visas that may be required. This ride visits Chile and Argentina.

Vaccinations

A Yellow Fever vaccination is mandatory for travel within South America, and may well be asked for when returning to your home country. We highly recommend that you speak with your doctor, and/or check out the World Health Organization website at www.who.int/country and have a look at their excellent International Travel and Health book, available online. In Australia, visit the Australian Medical Centre website at www.traveldoctor.com.au or phone 1300 65 88 44. For our U.S clients, visit www.cdc.gov/travel/ and for our U.K clients, go to www.doh.gov.uk/traveladvice/, for travel health recommendations in general, go to www.mdtravelhealth.com, now part of red travel.



You've made a booking, what happens next?

Once a booking has been made, you will receive an automated booking confirmation. Soon after, you will receive a "welcome" email, and then receive our comprehensive pre departure booklet in the post. This booklet will prepare you for your adventure and has more details on what to bring and what to expect. We email a "tour dossier" 90 days before departure; this dossier is full of information, including historical and country information. The more you read, the more you will get out of your ride.



Thanks for spending your time reading this information kit. We hope it has inspired you to challenge yourself, if not riding with us then just riding and enjoying this remarkable world that we live in.

If you have further questions, please contact us.

Compass Expeditions

Email: info@compassexpeditions.com

Phone: + 61 3 9747 2379 (international)
1300 887 327 (within Australia)

Website: www.compassexpeditions.com

