

# Window Into Patagonia

## Sample 11-Day Itinerary — Patagonia, Chile

### Day 1

Depart from home country. Arrive in Santiago, Chile or Buenos Aires, Argentina the following morning.

### Day 2

Get connecting flights to either Chaiten, Chile or Esquel, Argentina. Arrive in Futalufeu, Chile at approximately 8 p.m. Sleep at a simple and comfortable family-owned hospedaje.

### Day 3

We will begin the expedition with a mid-morning departure from the family-owned Rancho Las Ruedas. Traverse along the shoreline of Lago Espolon, taking our lunch break at the home of Edermo, Elena, and Alexi. There is time for a short hike to view the spectacular Rapidos Aranedas, before continuing the ride. Traversing along the western lakeshore, we'll continue for several hours before arriving at the home of Roberto Redlich. We will have dinner here where there are also sleeping accommodations for eight people.

### Day 4

After a camp breakfast (bread, cheese, coffee, tea) we will continue riding through the temperate rainforest, crossing streams, viewing waterfalls and appreciating the incredible natural beauty and the native flora and fauna. A picnic lunch will be served along the lake where we can view the beautiful, turquoise blue color of the lake. Dinner and sleeping accommodations will be in the home of local families in the small hamlet of Espolon.

### Day 5

By now we will have become accustomed to riding our horses! After breakfast (and optional free time) we will continue along the Espolon River arriving at the home of Raul Aranedas after a lengthy ride of 25 kilometers. A country dinner will be served at the home and we will sleep in tents around the campfire.

### Day 6

After breakfast, you'll have a chance to practice saddling the horses in Chilean style. We will encounter an incredible sensation of liberty along the next section of the trail. This route was used over a century ago as the primary trade route by horseback. The heavy use has resulted in lowering the trail two to three meters. We will pass under a canopy of native trees while the trail walls surround us. After a picnic lunch with several hours of rest, the adventure will continue (20 kilometers) crossing the River Leon. A country dinner will be served at the home of Sergio Espinosa. We will sleep in tents around a campfire.

### Day 7

This is a unique day suitable for a tale on Survivor! We will follow a challenging route named "La Veranada", an incredibly beautiful point in the journey. Next, we'll cross the famous route called "Mallines" and later "The Frutillar". After a picnic lunch, we will pass through virgin forests—arriving at the home of Chayo Peso for dinner, sleeping in tents around the campfire.

### Day 8

After breakfast is the magnificent crossing of the River Michimahuida. It is a crossing that will take time and great care with experienced guides, as the rapids and the current of Los Nombrados Turbios Grande and Chico, are extremely strong. After a distance of 15 kilometers we will have lunch and rest. The afternoon route is much easier with the possibility of galloping! We will arrive at the hot springs "Termas el Amarillo". After a delicious asado, we will sleep at the Marcela Inn.

### Day 9

After breakfast, we have an opportunity to relax in the hot springs. In the afternoon you can opt to ride horses, or hike the volcano Michimahuida. A picnic lunch will follow the hike and we will return to the Marcela Inn. After a light snack at Marcela's we will return to the hot springs by vehicle. After soaking in the pool, we'll be treated to an asado.

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**Day 10**

After breakfast, those returning via the Chilean route will transfer to the nearby village of Chaiten to connect with a short flight to Puerto Montt, and on to Santiago connecting with an evening departure to their home country. Those returning via the Argentina route will transfer to Esquel, Argentina where their afternoon flight to Buenos Aires will connect to an evening departure flight to their home country.

**Day 11**

Arrive at final destination in home country.