

Southern Lakes Explorer: 9 Days

Information Kit

Chile & Argentina:

Ride through some of Chile and Argentina's finest scenery.



An epic landscape of snow capped volcanoes, glacial lakes; the colour of deep jade, silt-laden rivers running through ancient forests, this is the Southern Lakes Explorer. Spectacular national parks, many dotted with conical volcanoes, lush wild and remote islands, lakeside hamlets and 5 star resorts, welcome to some of the best Chile & Argentina has to offer.

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

After a short flight to from Santiago to Temuco we shall transfer to our hotel in Pucón, a wonderful township nestled at the foot of Villarrica Volcano deep within the stunning Chilean lakes district. We shall get acquainted with our bikes before going on an afternoon introductory ride. We have a great ride designed that will take in some of the extraordinary scenery that abounds, and one that offers a mix of on and off-road.

Day Two: Valdivia

We have some time to further explore the Chilean Lakes District before riding to one of Chile's most magnificent cities. Beautiful Valdivia is set on the confluence of the Rio Calle Calle and Rio Cruces. We spend the late afternoon and evening visiting the 17th century forts and exploring the Plaza de la Republica. Famed for its craft beers with a German influence, you certainly won't forget the numerous boutique beers on offer in Valdivia.

Day Three: Petrohué

We ride south through this 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, not to mention the lake. We shall ride out to the most stunning lake in all of Southern Chile, Lago Todos los Santos where we shall overnight at Petrohué. Hopefully we shall see Volcon Osorno being beautifully reflected off the emerald green lake; it's an outstandingly beautiful spot.

Day Four: Ancud

Continuing south we shall reach the Germanic town of Puerto Varas, which offers more stunning views of Lago Languihue and Volcan Osorno, before riding onto Puerto Montt. From Puerto Montt we shall cross onto the mythical Chiloe Island. Chiloe is an archipelago of over 40 islands and is steeped in history and mystique. We are now in Patagonia and stay overnight at Ancud situated on the dazzling north coast of the island.





Day Five: Entre Lagos

Returning north we ride onto Frutillar, a wonderfully preserved 18th century village that has a strong Germanic history. Another beautiful riding day amongst the lakes and mountains. We shall stop en-route at the super laidback Puerto Octay on our way to our overnight stay at the tiny village of Entre Lagos, on the shores of Lago Puyehue.

Day Six: San Carlos de Bariloche

Today is yet another spectacular ride as we cross into Argentina via the lofty Paso Puyehue. We shall be riding through the Parque Nacional Puyehue all the way to the Argentinean border with numerous lakes and twin volcanic peaks in full view. After border procedures we shall ride down into San Carlos de Bariloche, an absolutely stunning town known for its Swiss architecture, Saint Bernard dogs and chocolates.

Day Seven: San Carlos de Bariloche

A full day is spent in Bariloche allowing us time to ride the superb Circuito Chico that runs along the shores of Lago Nahuel Huapi. A visit to the world-renowned resort of Llaolao is highly recommended for lunch.

Day Eight: Pucón

Our last ride day shall see us travel north and ride the world famous Seven Lakes Drive; a dirt road around, as the name suggests, Seven Lakes. The scenic splendour continues on as we pass through San Martin de los Andes before crossing back into Chile at the remote border pass of Mamuil Malal. Our final ride will be through a rare Monkey Puzzle tree forest. Today will be a scenic overload.

Day Nine: Santiago

Our final day will see us take private transport through the Lakes District to Temuco for our included return flight to Santiago.

Departure day: Santiago

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

Ride Grade: 2

Grade 2 doesn't mean we are spending all day everyday on dirt or racing around like we are on a Dakar event, it means we spend a small part of a couple of days on dirt roads. Two-wheel drive cars and semi trailers use these same tracks, so NOT extreme.

90% of this ride is on paved road, however these road surfaces can be in bad condition with large potholes and tall shoulders and poor signage. Local drivers can be a little less careful to what we may be accustomed to, therefore careful attentive riding is required.

10% of this ride is on dirt, most dirt is hard packed, although there are sections that can have loose gravel and can be rutted.

Distances

The biggest riding day is 390 km / 245 mi, with the shortest being 145 km / 90 mi. Most riding days we average around 150 – 200 km / 95 – 125 mi with numerous rest days included where the bike is available for more riding if desired (subject to any maintenance requirements). The total distance is approximately 1300 km / 800 mi

Bikes

We operate 2 brands of bikes that need no introduction, BMW and Triumph. Our fleet consists of the BMW F700 GS (including one low suspension bike) / F800 GS, R1200 GS and the Triumph Tiger 800 XC. All bikes come equipped with crash protection and a top-box and are maintained by us, as we own the bikes, ensuring peace of mind and reliable riding.

Experience required

This ride is suitable for the off-road novice and two up riding.

Some off- road riding experience would be an advantage for this tour mainly due to the fact that the potential exists for a couple of sections of easy dirt riding and previous knowledge of what to expect would be helpful, although not a necessity. As with any dirt tracks they are constantly changing depending on recent weather and heavy truck traffic activity. Co-Riders can travel in the support vehicle at anytime if any dirt becomes to challenging.

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

Weather

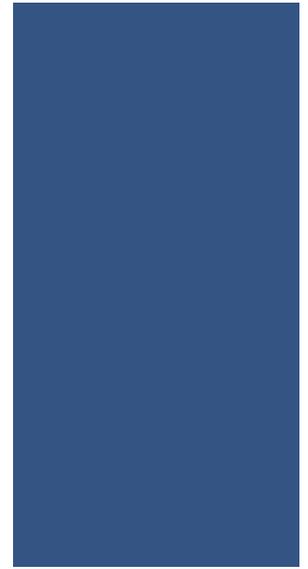
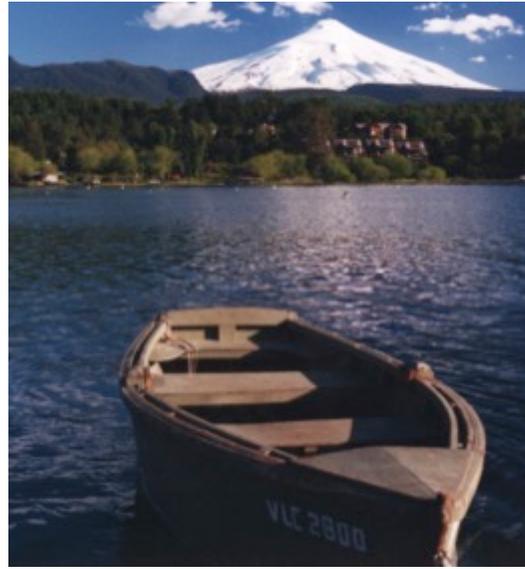
We run this tour at the best time of year to be riding the Lakes District and Northern Patagonia, when there is little rain, the skies are blue and the mountains are visible. The temperature is on the cooler side, ideal for riding. Rain isn't unusual on Chiloe Island. As with any mountainous region the weather is constantly changeable.

Average daily temperatures should be between 7 and 20 degrees C (45 and 67 degrees F).



Highlights

- Stunning town of Pucón
- Lago Todos los Santos
- Parque Nacional Puyehue
 - Chiloe Island
- Germanic lakeside village of Frutillar
 - Swiss town of Bariloche
 - Scenic Seven Lakes ride



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 Chiloe Island and wonderful Asado in Argentina are highlights. On all ride days we include our legendary picnic lunches that we prepare out of our mobile kitchen, not pre-prepared sandwiches or local truck stop meals, imagine a vegetarian trying to order anything other than meat at an Argentinean truck stop!! Our picnic lunches are wholesome and filling and our selected restaurants offer both traditional and western style foods. Of course all breakfasts are included and those with particular dietary requirements are easily catered for.

Breakfasts: **10**
Lunches: **7**
Dinners: **4**

Accommodation

Our hotels are generally 3 and 4 stars and are chosen for their location, cleanliness, suitability for motorcycle groups and ambience. Some hotels have restaurants and 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.

Accommodation: **10 nights**

Tour Inclusions

- Airport Transfers
- Motorcycle rental as per your selection.
- Flight Santiago – Temuco and Temuco – Santiago
 - Fuel
 - Tolls
- Support vehicle with passenger carrying ability
- Services of ride leader and support vehicle driver
 - Pre-departure material and route maps
 - Access to satellite phone, pay per minute
 - Compass Expeditions polo shirt
- Entrances to all national parks mentioned in the itinerary

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 warm up, therefore a multi layer jacket and pants are essential. The jacket and pant, ideally need to have internal removable liners and Kevlar crash protection, as well as a waterproof pocket for your documents and small camera. Preferably your jacket and pants should be 100% waterproof, or carry a set of waterproofs in your top-box.

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.

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