

## Bicycle Tours in Argentina: Expedition: Patagonia Coast to Coast - Chile to Argentina

### OVERVIEW

Are you ready to pedal Coast to Coast across South America? Join us on this expedition from Chiloé, Chile on the Pacific Coast, over the Andes, down the Chubut River valley through the Argentinian Steppe, to Playa Union on the Atlantic Coast. There are plenty of surprises along the way: starting with the unique culture of the Chilote people; the Welsh settlement and tea houses at Gaiman; Ruta 25, the main road of Argentine Patagonia, yet one of the least traveled roads in the country. Enjoy oceans, rain forest, mountains, deserts, river valleys and just about every other type of terrain you can imagine on this 700+ mile, 17-day expedition.



Expedition tours are designed for experienced riders looking to challenge themselves. Read more about how they differ from a regular ExperiencePlus! tour [here](#).


Is cycling in South America for you? Check out our [What to expect: Cycling in South America](#) page.

### HIGHLIGHTS

Chiloé Island, the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, penguin colony, market in Castro, rafting, Old Patagonian Express, Last frontier feeling in the Argentinian Steppe, Guanacos, Gaiman, Irish tea house.

### TOUR FACTS

<b>Tour Style</b>	 Expedition: Learn more about our Expedition tours at <a href="https://www.experienceplus.com/tours/bike-tour-styles/expedition-tours">https://www.experienceplus.com/tours/bike-tour-styles/expedition-tours</a>
<b>Includes</b>	17 days, 16 night's accommodation, 16 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 12 dinners. Price includes all tips including tour leader gratuities. Day 1 shuttle from Puerto Montt to the tour start. Day 17 shuttle from Playa Union to the Trelew Airport.
<b>Countries</b>	Argentina, Chile
<b>Begin/End</b>	Puerto Montt, Chile/Playa Union, Argentina
<b>Arrive/Depart</b>	Puerto Montt, Chile (via Santiago, Chile) /Trelew, Argentina, (via Buenos Aires, Argentina)
<b>Total Distance</b>	1128 km (700 miles)
<b>Avg. Daily Distance</b>	87 km (54 miles) per riding day
<b>Tour Level</b>	 Long days and varied terrain with some days including up to 4000+ feet of climbing.
<b>Keep in Mind</b>	<p>We work hard to maintain consistency across all of our tours, but some trips have unique differences. Here are some things to keep in mind about this tour. Expeditions require that you be prepared for anything and a sense of adventure will be your most valuable asset!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to gravel/poor road conditions there will likely be 2 or 3 instances where you will have to shuttle.</li> <li>- You will travel to remote areas with very basic accommodations.</li> <li>- Private Rooms may not be available every night.</li> </ul> <p>Learn more about what is included and what to expect on your Expedition tour <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

**Please Note:** We may have small itinerary changes to this trip after you download this PDF document. If you have booked this trip and there are major changes, including changes to towns or activities, we'll email you directly. However, you should always be sure to refer to the  [online itinerary](#) for the most up-to-date trip information including arrival and departure tips before you depart for your trip:

<https://www.experienceplus.com/guided-bike-tours/argentina/bike-tours-patagonia-chile-to-argentina>

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### DATES & PRICES

Dates Price Single Supplement\*

\*We are happy to match solo travelers who would like to share a room with someone of the same gender. If no match exists, due to hotel pricing, we will charge 50% of the single supplement rate. This fee will be collected at the time of the final payment. If a roommate assignment is available this fee will be refunded at the conclusion of the tour.

### DAILY RIDE SUMMARY

Day	Distance/Gain	Terrain	Day Level	Notes
1	Test ride			
2	51km / 624m (32mi / 2047ft)	Rolling hills	▶▶▶▶▶	
3	110km / 1523m (68mi / 4995ft)	Hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
4	75km / 1372m (47mi / 4500ft)	Very hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
5	56km / 659m (35mi / 2162ft)	Rolling hills	▶▶▶▶▶	
6	54km / 562m (34mi / 1843ft)	Rolling hills	▶▶▶▶▶	
7	52km / 368m (33mi / 1207ft)	Rolling hills	▶▶▶▶▶	
8	Rest day			
9	Rest day			
10	75km / 745m (47mi / 2444ft)	Hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
11	95km / 626m (59mi / 2053ft)	Gentle	▶▶▶▶▶	
12	164km / 1024m (102mi / 3359ft)	Hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
13	57km / 184m (36mi / 604ft)	Gentle	▶▶▶▶▶	
14	190km / 987m (118mi / 3237ft)	Gentle	▶▶▶▶▶	
15	111km / 375m (69mi / 1230ft)	Gentle	▶▶▶▶▶	
16	43km / 131m (27mi / 430ft)	Gentle	▶▶▶▶▶	
17	Last day			

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### ARRIVAL INFO

Your tour starts with a shuttle pick-up on Day 1 at the meeting hotel in Puerto Varas listed below (your spot is already reserved on this shuttle):

- Meeting Time: 10 am
- Meeting Hotel: [Hotel Solace](#)

#### Note:

As you are planning, remember that the hotels listed in our itineraries are our primary hotels and are - in rare cases - subject to change. Before you make arrangements, [check with us](#) if your tour departure is guaranteed. If your tour departure is out further than 6 months, please also check with us as there might be slight changes to the itinerary.

The below information will help you plan your arrival. For more tips or other routes, you might like [Rome2Rio](#). The fare and timing information listed below is approximate.

#### We recommend flying into the Puerto Montt International Airport (PMC)

We will be glad to arrange your pre- and post-tour stay at the Meeting Hotel for you upon request. Note that we will not sleep there as a group and the stay there is not included in the tour price.

Getting to the Meeting Hotel in Puerto Varas from the PMC airport

- Taxi (30min/30,000 pesos)

#### Tips on flights:

Puerto Montt Airport (PMC) has connections to Santiago, Chile (SCL), Buenos Aires International Airport (EZE), and Buenos Aires Domestic Airport (AEP) see [LATAM](#)

- **Connecting in Santiago, Chile:** LATAM offers several 1.5 hour direct flights from Santiago.
- **Connecting in Buenos Aires:** LATAM offers several flights daily from both Buenos Aires Airports - you may have to connect through Santiago). It is a 4.5 to 5.5 hour flight. We would recommend connecting through Santiago rather than Buenos Aires.

For more travel planning tips, including our packing lists, visit our [Travel Planning Pages](#).

### DEPARTURE INFO

On the final tour day, we shuttle from the tour end you to the **Trelew Airport (REL)**. Shuttle departs at **6:00 a.m. with arrival at the airport by 6:30 a.m.** in time for the first flight to Buenos Aires at 7:50 a.m., which is good if you have an international connection to catch later in the day. Tour Leaders will take your shuttle reservations on tour.

If your flight is later in the day (which is also recommended if you are planning on staying in Buenos Aires), there are a number of taxi services available. Tour Leaders or your hotel can assist with arrangements.

### Bicycle Tours in Argentina: Expedition: Patagonia Coast to Coast - Chile to Argentina

#### Tips on flights:

Trelew Airport has connections to Buenos Aires, from where you can connect to the United States from Santiago, Chile. Non-stop flights from Trelew to Buenos Aires take less than 2 hours but be aware of some itineraries that make several stops along the route and therefore take much longer. See [LATAM](#)

You will likely have to change airports in Buenos Aires. Read details on how to do that [here](#).

**Bicycle Tours in Argentina: Expedition: Patagonia Coast to Coast - Chile to Argentina****Meet in Puerto Varas****Highlights** Chiloe Island

Our trip begins with a shuttle to Ancud, Chiloé (about 90kms, 2 hours) where we fit bicycles and take a warm-up ride to stretch out our legs. Founded in 1767, Ancud was a fortified city, a base for seafarers coming north around Cape Horn, and the last Spanish stronghold in Chile. Chiloé is a fascinating island with one of the largest indigenous populations of any place in Chile.

**DAY 1****Meals** Dinner**Lodging**  Hotel Don Lucas**Dip your toes in the Pacific Ocean****Highlights** Magellan and Humboldt penguins colony, walk on beach, Curanto Lunch

We're in Ancud again tonight but we'll take an excursion today to be sure our bikes are properly fitted, dip our toes in the Pacific on this spectacularly remote beach and visit the penguin colony. A 30 min. boat ride will take us to Puñihuil, the only place in Chile where both the Magellan and Humboldt penguins breed. For lunch we'll have a Curanto lunch - experience a 10,000 year old recipe and cooking style.

**DAY 2****Distance** 51 km (32 mi)**Gain** 624 m (2047 ft)**Terrain** Rolling hills**Level** **Meals** Breakfast, Lunch**East Coast of Chiloé Island****Highlights** Fishing port, East coast of Chiloé Island

Our route today takes us on the Panamerican Highway for about 40 km, then off to the east coast of Chiloé Island. A little over half way into our ride we'll pass the Aucar islet, a tiny island with just a church and cemetery but special because of a 700m wooden bridge which connects it with the Island of Chiloé. (For those who want to add a few km the wooden church of Colo is worthwhile the detour( there will be another wooden church on the route tomorrow)). We'll end our day in Dalcahue, a fishing port north east of Castro, the capital of the island.

**DAY 3****Distance** 110 km (68 mi)**Gain** 1523 m (4995 ft)**Terrain** Hilly**Level** **Meals** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Explore fishing community, bicycle to Castro

**Highlights** Church of Santa María de Loreto in Achao, Palafito Houses and Market in Castro

From Dalcahue we'll take the ferry to Quinchao Island. We'll bike to Curaco de Velez and after that to Achao to explore the oldest church (1793) in the archipelago which is one of the iconic wooden churches of the Chiloé Archipelago and a UNESCO site. On our way back we'll have lunch at an "agroturismo". After ferrying back to Chiloé we'll bicycle to Castro where you'll have time to explore the local market of Castro and discover produce you've never seen before and artisanal handicrafts!

### DAY 4

**Distance** 75 km (47 mi)  
**Gain** 1372 m (4500 ft)  
**Terrain** Very Hilly  
**Level** >>>>>  
**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch

### Castro to Chiloé National Park

**Highlights** Ride to Pacific, Chiloé National Park, lunch with locals

We pedal from Castro to Chiloé National Park on the Pacific Coast today. In the National Park we'll go for a 1-2 hour hike to explore its ancient forests and learn about its history. This region was described by Charles Darwin on his famous voyage as rich in its diversity of temperate-zone forest plants. The park was created by the indigenous communities of Chiloé who have fought to protect the environment threatened by intensive deforestation. The national park is also home to rare species of animals endemic to Chile, such as picaflores (hummingbirds), kingfishers, huillines (sea otters), and pudúes (the smallest deer in the world). We'll visit with members of the indigenous community of Quilque over lunch with local products. Tonight we overnight in a unique stilt hotel in the small town of Cucao.

### DAY 5

**Distance** 56 km (35 mi)  
**Gain** 659 m (2162 ft)  
**Terrain** Rolling hills  
**Level** >>>>>  
**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

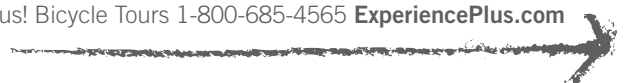
### Pedal to Chonchi or Castro and Ferry to Chaitén

**Highlights** Ferry to Chaitén

Our schedule today will vary depending on ferry schedules. If the ferry leaves mid-day we'll take a quick morning ride from the ocean back to Castro or Chonchi. We arrive in Chaitén later this afternoon after a 4-5 hour boat ride. We'll spend the night in Chaitén and explore this town as it is being rebuilt. In 2008 Chaitén was partially destroyed during the eruption of the Chaitén Volcano after it having been dormant for 9000 years!

### DAY 6

**Distance** 54 km (34 mi)  
**Gain** 562 m (1843 ft)  
**Terrain** Rolling hills  
**Level** >>>>>  
**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



**Bicycle Tours in Argentina: Expedition: Patagonia Coast to Coast - Chile to Argentina****Cycle to Yelcho in Patagonia**

**Highlights** Bicycle Chaiten - Yelcho en Patagonia

We will rest our legs on a shorter ride today and get ready for the Andes. Our accommodation tonight is in a "hidden corner of the world." We will stay on the shores of the lake of Yelcho, one of the largest lakes of Chile surrounded by ice capped peaks and rain forests.

**DAY 7**

**Distance** 52 km (33 mi)

**Gain** 368 m (1207 ft)

**Terrain** Rolling hills

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

**Boat ride to Futaleufú**

**Highlights** Boat ride across Lake Yelcho

We jump on a boat across the lake today to experience the the mountains from a different point of view. We'll spend some time enjoying the little community of Futaleufu which is mostly known for its world class rafting and fly fishing. No riding today, just some time on the lake and exploring town.

**DAY 8**

**Meals** Breakfast

**Futaleufu - Rest day in the Mountains**

**Highlights** Scenic rivers, rafting and hiking

You have the option of a half day of rafting or spending your day simply enjoying your beautiful surroundings. If you are a fly fisher we can help find you fly fishing options for the day, or simply a nice walk in the hills if you prefer! Tonight we'll have dinner together and celebrate our last night in Chile before we cross the border tomorrow.

**DAY 9**

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

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### Esquel, Argentina and into the Foothills of the Andes!

**Highlights** River views, views of Patagonia Express narrow gauge steam train

We head up the river this morning and climb about 2,000 feet by the time we arrive in Esquel, a small ski resort in the foothills of the Argentine Andes. Esquel is famous as the terminus of the Old Patagonian Express one of the oldest continuously operating steam railways in the world. The train now operates primarily as a tourist attraction. We should be able to get some good photographs.

### DAY 10


**Distance** 75 km (47 mi)  
**Gain** 745 m (2444 ft)  
**Terrain** Hilly  
**Level**   
**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch

### Climb to Tecka

**Highlights** Bicycle Ruta 40, the Andes

You'll continue to climb on today's ride as you leave Esquel for Tecka. After about 10 km. you intersect the famous "Ruta 40" which we'll follow to Tecka where we spend the night. (If you continue south on the Ruta 40 and you'd end up in southern Patagonia - after about 4 weeks on your bike!).

### DAY 11


**Distance** 95 km (59 mi)  
**Gain** 626 m (2053 ft)  
**Terrain** Gentle  
**Level**   
**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

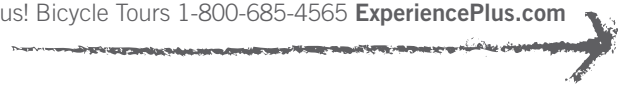
### Tecka to Paso de los Indios

**Highlights** Barbecue, Argentinean steppe

Today is your first opportunity to ride a century, from Tecka to Paso de Indios on Ruta 25, rather than Ruta 40. We'll go over our last mountain range and head down to the beginning of the Chubut River Valley. The choices for accommodations are very limited in this remote area so we'll stay in a simpler style hotel. Keep your eyes open and you'll see eagles, and some guanacos.

### DAY 12

**Distance** 164 km (102 mi)  
**Gain** 1024 m (3359 ft)  
**Terrain** Hilly  
**Level**   
**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner





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### Down into the Valle de Los Altares

**Highlights** Bicycle the Rio Chubut

Continuing east from Paso de Indios we encounter the Rio Chubut and the landscape changes dramatically as we enter the Valle de Los Altares. This green river valley contrasts starkly with the eroded sedimentary cliffs on either side. Our destination tonight is a small hotel in the village of Los Altares.

### DAY 13

**Distance** 57 km (36 mi)

**Gain** 184 m (604 ft)

**Terrain** Gentle

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Bicycle to Dique Florentino Almeghino

**Highlights** Cycling the plains - longest day of cycling!

Our route continues down the Rio Chubut today following the river to Las Plumas. We then continue on to where the Rio Chubut was dammed in 1963 to provide irrigation, hydroelectric power, and flood control for communities down the river. The prevailing winds are strong and should be at your back (fingers crossed) as you ride down the valley. If the winds are unfriendly there will be a shuttle available at the 100 km mark.

### DAY 14

**Distance** 190 km (118 mi)

**Gain** 987 m (3237 ft)

**Terrain** Gentle

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Bicycle to Gaiman

**Highlights** Welsh tea house

As we follow the Rio Chubut further eastward, the last thing you might expect to find is a Welsh tea house and a city of 6,000 people speaking both Spanish and Welsh, but that is precisely what Gaiman has to offer. Settled by Welsh immigrants in the 1860s and 70s, the entire region is a miniature Welsh enclave.

### DAY 15

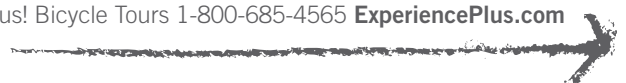
**Distance** 111 km (69 mi)

**Gain** 375 m (1230 ft)

**Terrain** Gentle

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch



**Bicycle Tours in Argentina: Expedition: Patagonia Coast to Coast - Chile to Argentina****Bicycle to the Atlantic**

**Highlights** The Atlantic Ocean

We continue pedaling through this unlikely Welsh cultural region, and capital of the Chubut region. We then head on to the Atlantic coast to dip our feet into the Atlantic and end this expedition in the small town of Playa Union.

**DAY 16**

**Distance** 43 km (27 mi)

**Gain** 131 m (430 ft)

**Terrain** Gentle

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

**Lodging**  Hotel Punta Leon

**Farewell and enjoy Argentina or Patagonia**

**Highlights** Fly out to Buenos Aires or down to Tierra del Fuego

Our tour ends on the Atlantic Beach this morning. You understand Patagonia and the Steppe a little better now! Spend some more time discovering the Peninsula of Valdés. Buen viaje!

**DAY 17**

**Meals** Breakfast

**INCLUDED****BEFORE YOU LEAVE**

- Tour planning tips on what to bring, what to leave home, and what you might like to read before your trip.
- Bicycle Tour Training program designed specifically for your tour rating by renowned cycling coach, Joe Friel.
- Assistance with flights, trains and booking extra nights at your starting and ending tour hotels.
- A complimentary gift of your choice

**ON YOUR BICYCLE TOUR**

- Superb tour leaders who are great fun and also bilingual, bicultural experts, and avid cyclists. They're experienced to help you navigate confidently on and off the road.
- Comfortable lodging in 3-4 star hotels located in or near the town square with easy access to your favorite café (bar, gelato, espresso) of the day, always with a private bath.
- All breakfasts & at least half of your dinners each featuring multi-courses, fresh, seasonal specialties and wine or beer. See specific tour information for details.
- On many tours we also have 1 or 2 lunches—see specific tour itineraries for details.
- Use of a high quality bike—a Titanium road bike, hybrid, or an aluminum tandem in Continental Europe. For tours in South America, Scotland and Ireland we have aluminum frames. All of our bikes are geared specifically to cruise the flats and help ease you over the mountain.
- Our bikes come with a computer so you can track your miles. They also have an expandable rear rack pack to carry your stuff, and a water bottle that's yours to keep.
- Full van support to carry luggage - and tired cyclists, too!

- Special events like wine tastings and cultural visits as described in the trip itinerary.
- All tips and gratuities at tour hotels and group meals.
- Unique routes, marked with our signature chalk dust arrows that ensure you won't get lost. They also give you the freedom to travel at your own pace.
- Daily mileage options—for those folks who just can't get enough cycling, we'll suggest optional routes off our marked course.
- Detailed route map, and arrows that will lead you to hidden wonders on your bicycle ride.
- All the fun (and more) that you expect from your vacation.

**WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

- Transportation to and from the bicycling tour including airfare, or train travel
- Helmets - we ask that you bring your own to ensure the best fit
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- Tour Leader gratuity

**AFTER YOUR BICYCLE TOUR**

- Deeply discounted tours with our "Re-Cycle Program." Your fifth tour with us will be discounted by 50% of the average price of your previous four tours; your tenth tour will be discounted by 100% of the average price of your previous nine tours!

**LEVEL RATINGS**

Our itinerary descriptions provide daily mileage to help you determine if a bicycle tour is suited to your physical capabilities and interest. You'll also find a note about the trip's terrain on the "Tour Facts" page of each tour. The purpose of this page is to offer a general explanation of our rating categories.

**BIKE TOURS 101**

Perfect for people looking for mostly flat terrain, or those newer to cycling. Also great for families traveling with younger children (8—14).

- **Average daily mileage:** 50—57km (30 to 35 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** 101 tours offer flat to gently rolling terrain. You'll find specific information on the "Tour Facts" page of each itinerary where you see the tour rating.

**BIKE TOURS 201**

For riders who prefer a combination of flat and rolling terrain with moderate climbs on one or two days. An excellent compromise for friends who have diverse riding abilities.

- **Average daily mileage:** 50—57km (30 to 35 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** 201 tours feature mostly flat and rolling terrain with moderate climbs on one or two days where you might gain up to 2,000 feet. Some 201 tours may have some longer mileage days of up to 85 kms (50 miles) over fairly flat terrain. While others may have days of 30 - 45 kms (18—25 miles) with steeper climbs. You'll find specific information on the "Tour Facts" page of each itinerary where you see the tour rating.

**BIKE TOURS 301**

For riders who enjoy some climbing every day. These tours are best suited to intermediate level recreational riders. Fit beginners will likely do well but may want to shuttle on days with steeper climbs.

- **Average daily mileage:** 50 to 75 km (35—45 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** For 301 tours expect cumulative daily climbs of 1,500—2,000 feet and several days of climbing in excess of 3,000 feet. You might encounter some longer mileage 80—90 km (50-60 miles) days with rolling terrain. You'll find specific information on the "Tour Facts" page of each itinerary where you see the tour rating.

**BIKE TOURS 401**

For cyclists who love to climb (and descend)! If you haven't trained or are an inexperienced rider you will find these trips very challenging and will very likely need to shuttle regularly.

- **Average daily mileage:** 50 to 75 km (35—45 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** 401 tours are challenging. Expect the possibility of longer mileage days of 80 - 120 kms (50 to 70 miles) with rolling terrain, or some sustained hills for considerable distances - think mountain passes, or steeper (+5%) climbs that come with regularity and could be as long as 10 km (6+ miles). You will have gains of 1000 meters (3000 feet) on a third of the days. You'll find specific information on the "Tour Facts" page of each itinerary where you see the tour rating.

**BIKE TOURS 501**

Our ExpeditionPlus! tours designed for strong riders looking for the challenge of riding across countries or continents. Long daily mileages means limited van support so we recommended these tours for riders who feel confident that they can ride every mile.

- **Average daily mileage:** 120 km (75 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Expect and be prepared for any and everything.

**REMEMBER**

It is almost always possible to adapt the day's ride to how you are feeling either by taking advantage of the support van, or asking tour leaders for additional mileage.

**Need More Miles?** On just about every day of every tour it is possible to add miles to the day. Just talk to your tour leader about the options.

**Need Fewer Miles?** If you aren't sure about your abilities or how much you want to ride remember the support van is available to offer snacks, encouragement, a lift over the next hill, or to the next hotel. You are on vacation and we're here to help make it perfect for you.

**Chalk Dust Arrows.** Remember, no matter what level of tour you choose ExperiencePlus! uses chalk dust arrows to mark our routes so riders can take the day at their own pace! Whether you prefer to stop at every gelateria, take a hundred photos a day, or push to achieve a new personal best you'll be happy on our tours.

**WHAT TO EXPECT****BICYCLES**

Your bike comes with a pack for the rear rack, lock, cyclometer (bicycle computer), a spare tube and patch kit and pump. If you would like to bring your own pedals and shoes we recommend doing so—your tour leaders will install them during the bike fitting. We have flat pedals with or without cages and straps available. For safety and hygiene reasons you are responsible for bringing a helmet.

**Daily Routine (Procedures and Logistics)****DAYSHEETS**

Each day you'll receive a daysheet with information on the day's activities, meals and ride. These also include Tour Leader phone numbers, hotel information and interesting historical and cultural information about sites that you may want to stop and see along the route. Your Tour Leaders will also post daily announcements in the hotel lobby with information about sightseeing in town or restaurant recommendations for dinners on your own as well as important information about breakfast, luggage down and "arrows down" time.

**NAVIGATING ON TOUR**

At breakfast each day we will make the "Master Route Map" available so you can highlight your map for the day's ride. Of course, we also mark the route every day with our signature chalk dust arrows. Our arrows make navigating very easy—you may never need to look at the map! The arrows also allow you to ride at your own pace. There is no need to "keep up" with the group—this is your ride!

But what if it rains? What happens to the arrows? In a light rain, the arrows actually "set up" and become more permanent. In a heavy rain, they do wash away. If that happens, we'll re-group to cycle together for those who want to continue cycling while those who prefer to stay dry can shuttle.

**VAN SUPPORT**

The van carries luggage and supports cyclists. It also has water, fruit and snacks. Though the van has snacks, we encourage you to stop and enjoy markets and find your own favorite local specialty.

**HOTELS**

We have carefully chosen all of our accommodations for their charm and location. They are typically small, family run hotels that offer you a glimpse into the local culture.

We prefer hotels near interesting sites in the center of town located along the best cycling route in the area. Because many of the hotels are small not all of the rooms will be

exactly the same. We keep this in mind and do our best to distribute rooms fairly by the end of the tour. Our itinerary lists our primary hotels. On rare occasions, listed hotels are subject to change.

**MEALS AND RESTAURANTS**

Breakfasts: we work hard to arrange complete breakfasts but some hotels still serve continental style breakfasts; cycling is energy intensive so we do recommend you plan for a morning or mid-morning snack on the road at a local café or market.

Water is OK in almost all hotels and in country fountains; if there is a problem, we will advise you.

We'll recommend lunch locations en route and most itineraries include a few group picnics. We limit the number of picnics so you don't feel pressured to be at a certain place in the middle of your ride.

Dinners together are often pre-planned and pre-ordered. We'll ask you if you have special dietary requirements. Pre-planned meals allow us to provide a variety of regional specialties and facilitate efficient service. Water, wine and beer are included.

**TIPPING YOUR TOUR LEADER TEAM**

If you feel your tour leader team has demonstrated great expertise and service, common practice within the travel industry is to tip. Tipping is voluntary and greatly appreciated, and gratuity amounts vary widely. Should you decide to leave a tip, as a guideline, we suggest 5% of the tour cost per traveler – this for the entire tour leader team, not each Tour Leader. If you'd like to show your gratitude for your Tour Leaders' excellent service you can give the tip to any member of the tour leader team, as they share it evenly. In order to avoid social tensions, we encourage you to tip as individuals and not as a group. If you feel your Tour Leaders did not quite meet your expectations, then we would like to know about it. You will also have the opportunity to leave your comments in our evaluation survey which we email to you after your trip.

**PHOTOS**

We'll be taking photos throughout the tour and we encourage you to do the same. Please note that we may use these for promotional purposes. Please inform us if you prefer images of you not be used. We realize that many of our travelers are great photographers and often people want to share photos after the trip. We'd love to see and share your photos from the tour with the world so if you don't mind the possibility of being famous (at least in the ExperiencePlus! world) send us a link to your tour photo gallery, or upload your favorite 20 - 30 pictures to your tour departure gallery - we'll send you the link to that online photo gallery in your final email!

## CHECKLIST

### TO DO TODAY!

Read through your Reservation Confirmation Email, it has important information to help you plan your trip!

- Check the date on your passport. The expiration date should extend three months past your date of return to your home country
- Complete the Customer Information Form online at [www.experienceplus.com/travelinfo/tourcif](http://www.experienceplus.com/travelinfo/tourcif)
- Apply for trip cancellation/interruption insurance within 21 days of booking your tour. Find details at <http://www.experienceplus.com/assets/files/packingbicycle.pdf>
- Download the bicycle training program found on the Training Program Blog Page at [www.experienceplus.com/training](http://www.experienceplus.com/training)

### 3—6 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

- Reserve your flights after you know you have a confirmed tour departure. Please check with our office if you do not know if your trip is confirmed. As you make your plans refer to the Getting To and Away sent to you in your booking confirmation email it provides meeting times and the starting and ending hotels and shuttle information when applicable.
- Book your pre and post-tour hotel nights. Please refer to the Getting To and Away sheet you received in your Reservation Confirmation Email.
- 12 weeks before your tour begin your training program [www.experienceplus.com/training](http://www.experienceplus.com/training).
- Final payment is due 90 days prior to the tour start. Please refer to your Deposit Payment Invoice and the Final Payment Reminder e-mail you have received for detailed instructions.

### 6 WEEKS—2 WEEKS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

- Start reading one of the books or watching one of the movies from our Suggested Reading and Movie List which you'll find on the country page linked from the [www.experienceplus.com/travelinfo](http://www.experienceplus.com/travelinfo) page.
- Plan what you are going to pack and start packing! Refer to the Packing List on our website at [www.experienceplus.com/assets/files/packingbicycle.pdf](http://www.experienceplus.com/assets/files/packingbicycle.pdf).
- We'll email your Hotel Itinerary information 30 days prior to departure.

### DAY OF YOUR FLIGHT

Get as much sleep on the plane as you can. Pack your Getting To and Away information and one day of cycling gear in your carry-on. See you soon!