

Bicycle Tours in Argentina: Bicycling Patagonia's Lakes District Plus! The Island of Chiloé

OVERVIEW

Join us on our 10-day Bicycling Patagonia's Lakes District Plus! the Island of Chiloé from Argentina to Chile. We will cycle across the Continental Divide in the Andes, from Argentina into Chile experiencing the wild expanse of Patagonia's ever-changing landscape of pristine lakes, lush forests, conical volcanoes and snowcapped Andean peaks. Next, we explore Chiloé Island's tranquil fjords, wooden churches, pastoral landscapes and the rugged Pacific coastline. With its rich history and isolated location, Chiloé Island offers a cultural experience that is unique to Chile and the world.

If this sounds great but you prefer a shorter tour - check out our [Bicycling Patagonia's Lakes District](#) tour which features the first 7 days of this itinerary.


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

HIGHLIGHTS

Chile's Lake District, Views of Osorno and Calbuco Volcanoes, Waterfalls on the Petrohué River, thermal pools, San Carlos de Bariloche, Chiloé Island, Wooden Churches, Penguins

TOUR FACTS

Tour Style	 Classic: Learn more about our Classic tours at https://www.experienceplus.com/tours/bike-tour-styles/classic-tours
Includes	10 days, 9 nights accommodation; bilingual tour leaders; meals as noted in itinerary.
Countries	Argentina, Chile
Begin/End	San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina / Puerto Montt, Chile (PMC). There may be a reciprocity entry fee for entering Argentina through an international airport
Arrive/Depart	San Carlos de Bariloche (BRC) / Puerto Montt, Chile
Total Distance	419 kms (260 miles)
Avg. Daily Distance	70 km (43 miles) per riding day
Tour Level	
Keep in Mind	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. We do shuttle to avoid traffic or sections of rough roads. A/C or fans may not always be available since they haven't traditionally been needed.

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/patagonia-lakes-district-chiloe>

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DATES & PRICES

Dates	Price	Single Supplement*
Feb 4-13, 2023	USD\$4895	USD\$700
Feb 18-27, 2023	USD\$4895	USD\$700

*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	Other activity			See Daily Itinerary for details
2	33km / 575m (21mi / 1886ft)	Hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
3	Hike day 13km (8mi)			
4	87km / 1319m (54mi / 4326ft)	Mountainous	▶▶▶▶▶	
5	123km / 982m (76mi / 3221ft)	Rolling hills	▶▶▶▶▶	
6	61km / 328m (38mi / 1076ft)	Gentle	▶▶▶▶▶	
7	Transfer day			
8	61km / 1017m (38mi / 3336ft)	Very hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
9	55km / 659m (34mi / 2162ft)	Rolling hills	▶▶▶▶▶	
10	Last day			

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ARRIVAL INFO

Meet your Tour Leaders and fellow travelers in the afternoon of Day 1 at the Day 1 hotel. Keep an eye out for a note at the front desk with more details.

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 Bariloche Airport (BRC).

A Note on Flights: For this trip, we recommend booking international flights into Buenos Aires' International Airport (EZE) and out of Santiago, Chile (SCL). This means that you'll also need to purchase domestic tickets from Buenos Aires Domestic Airport (AEP) to Bariloche (BRC). For information on transferring between Buenos Aires' international and domestic airports see our information [here](#).

How to arrive at the Day 1 Hotel from Bariloche Airport:

- Taxi, available just outside the airport exit (30-40 min, 450 to 560 pesos/US\$12-15)
- Pre-arranged private transfer, [contact us for arrangements](#) (costs vary).

DEPARTURE INFO

On the final tour day, we shuttle you to the **Puerto Montt Airport (PMC)**. Your spot on the shuttle is already saved. **Schedule your flights at 2 p.m. or later. The transfer takes about 4 hours and the shuttle arrives around 11:30 a.m.**

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

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 to Santiago.
- **Connecting in Buenos Aires:** LATAM offers several flights daily to both Buenos Aires Airports - you may have to connect through Santiago). It is a 4.5 to 5.5 hour flight.
- Most international flights from South America leave in the late evening, so it is possible to connect with an international flight the day the tour ends.

Bicycle Tours in Argentina: Bicycling Patagonia's Lakes District Plus! The Island of Chiloé**Welcome to South America!****Highlights** Fit Bicycles, Welcome Dinner


We meet this afternoon at our hotel in San Carlos de Bariloche. This bustling mountain town is a year-round destination for outdoor enthusiasts. We'll meet late this afternoon to fit bicycles. After the fitting we'll take a guided walk through Bariloche and enjoy a welcome dinner together.

DAY 1: Sat, Feb 18th**Meals** Dinner**Lodging**  Alma Suites del Lago**Bariloche to Circuito Chico****Highlights** Bariloche, Cerro Campanario ski lift for panoramic view of the Andes, hotel spa

After a brief shuttle out of town we'll do a short test ride to make any necessary adjustments to your bike before heading out on our longer route. Tiny back roads lead us through forests and offer stunning views of Lago Nahuel Huapi and the Lago Perito Moreno. Our ride ends at the base of Cerro Campanario. Freshen up at the hotel and then take a short walk to the base of the ski area where we'll take the chairlifts up the mountain to enjoy a panoramic view of Bariloche - this is often called one of the top ten views in the world.

DAY 2: Sun, Feb 19th**Distance** 33 km (21 mi)**Gain** 575 m (1886 ft)**Terrain** Hilly**Level** **Meals** Breakfast, Lunch**Lodging**  Bosque Del Nahuel**Villa La Angostura****Highlights** Hiking day, Lake Nahuel Huapi, Arrayanes National Park

Your day begins with a shuttle to Lake Nahuel Huapi. From there, you'll set sail on a ferry and view Bariloche's surrounding area from a different perspective as you float towards the Quetrihué Peninsula. Upon docking we'll walk a wooded path through Arrayanes National Park and some of the most pristine myrtle in South America. In the 1970's, this 300-year-old myrtle stand was awarded special protection under the Argentine government. Local legend has it that Walt Disney walked through this forest in the late 1930's and it inspired his choice for Bambi's cinnamon color as well as the film's setting. Our hike will take between 3 and 4 hours.

DAY 3: Mon, Feb 20th**Distance** 13 km (8 mi)**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch**Lodging**  Hosteria El Establo
 Sol Arrayan Hotel & Spa

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Crossing into Chile

Highlights Crossing the Andes, Cardenal Samore Pass, thermal spas

Today's ride is all about crossing the Andes! While Argentina and Chile share the same latitude, Argentina's dense and diverse vegetation is distinctly different from the lush green forests and farmlands of Chile. Prepare to be awestruck as you enjoy the incredible shift in landscape while pedaling from Lake Espejo over the Cardenal Samore Pass (4,311 feet) to our thermal resort at the Termas de Puyehue. We'll have a picnic lunch together before enjoying the downhill into Chile! Be sure to take advantage of the hotel's wonderful thermal pools before dinner together this evening.

DAY 4: Tue, Feb 21st

Distance 87 km (54 mi)

Gain 1319 m (4326 ft)

Terrain Mountainous

Level >>>>>

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging  [Hotel Termas De Puyehue](#)

Termas de Puyehue to Petrohue

Highlights Lake Llanquihue, views of Osorno and Calbuco volcanoes

You'll pedal around the east side of Lake Llanquihue today with stunning views of the snow-capped Osorno and Calbuco volcanoes. We'll stop for a picnic lunch and enjoy the tranquility as we pass quiet farmlands and small forests. Take the shuttle or bike the last 6 km of gravel to the hotel before relaxing at the edge of one of Patagonia's beautiful lakes. Tonight we'll feast on a delicious home-cooked dinner together.

DAY 5: Wed, Feb 22nd

Distance 123 km (76 mi)

Gain 982 m (3221 ft)

Terrain Rolling hills

Level >>>>>

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging  [Hotel Petrohue](#)

Puerto Varas

Highlights Puerto Varas

Just after leaving our hotel, plan to visit the famous "Saltos de Petrohue," waterfalls. Continuing our ride around Lake Llanquihue we'll enjoy more great views of Osorno Volcano on our way to Puerto Varas, a small but bustling town with numerous craft stores and great walks along the lake. We have the inside scoop on Puerto Varas' best restaurant for dinner together this evening.

DAY 6: Thu, Feb 23rd

Distance 61 km (38 mi)

Gain 328 m (1076 ft)

Terrain Gentle

Level >>>>>

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging  [Hotel Solace](#)

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Transfer to Chiloé Island

Highlights Chiloé Island, Penguins, traditional curanto

From Puerto Varas we'll shuttle and then ferry to the island of Chiloé continuing to the beautiful Pacific Coast and rock islands of Puñihuil, which just so happens to be the only place in Chile where you can view both Magellan and Humboldt Penguins. First we stop in Ancud for lunch together and then take a boat ride around the small islands to visit the local penguins. Our early dinner is a special treat, a curanto - a unique seafood dish "pressure-cooked" underground. Afterward we'll continue to Castro, the capital of Chiloé and our home for the next two nights.

DAY 7: Fri, Feb 24th

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging  Hotel Palafito 1326

Bicycle Castro to Dalcahue and Achao

Highlights Fishing villages, traditional Chilote boats

We pedal to the east coast of Chiloé today towards Dalcahue and the village of Achao on the Island of Quinchao. Achao is the main town of the island and where the oldest church of Chiloé archipelago is located. We'll take the van back to Castro.

DAY 8: Sat, Feb 25th

Distance 61 km (38 mi)

Gain 1017 m (3336 ft)

Terrain Very Hilly

Level 

Meals Breakfast

Lodging  Hotel Palafito 1326

Bicycle Chiloé National Park

Highlights Quiet roads, birds and wildlife viewing

We pedal from Castro to Chiloé National Park on the Pacific Coast today 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 9: Sun, Feb 26th

Distance 55 km (34 mi)

Gain 659 m (2162 ft)

Terrain Rolling hills

Level 

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging  Hotel Palafito Cucao

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We board our shuttle and transfer back to our ferry and then on to the airport in Puerto Montt this morning. Expect to be at the airport in time to catch flights scheduled after 2 p.m.

Level **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
- 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

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.
- 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 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.
- 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!