



# Lake District Discovery

Santiago to Bariloche – 9 Days

## TOUR DOSSIER

### *Lakes & Wines of Argentina & Chile*

Our journey begins in Santiago, the cosmopolitan capital of Chile, from there we head south to explore Chile's wine region, with its wonderful vineyards that produce some of the world's finest wines. We continue travelling south through the Chilean and Argentinean Lakes Districts taking time to discover the endless forests, alpine lakes and startling waterfalls that are abundant throughout the area, and spend time in two of Chile and Argentina's premier adventure destinations.



#### ITINERARY

#### Santiago - Bariloche

**Included Meals: B- Breakfast, L – Lunch, D - Dinner**

##### **Day 1: Santiago (D)**

Your tour begins in Chile's cosmopolitan capital city, Santiago de Chile. After your predeparture meeting you will enjoy a wonderful dinner with the group.

##### **Day 2: Santiago → Santa Cruz (B,L,D)**

An early departure from Santiago towards the south via the Panamerican Highway sees you pass the city of San Fernando onto Santa Cruz (178km/110mi), located at the shores of the Tinguiririca river, nowadays located in the heart of the wine zone.

Once we arrive you will visit the Colchagua Museum, known today as one the most complete Museums in South America. The Colchagua Valley, famous for producing some of Chile's finest wines, in particular Carmenere, a grape that was thought to be extinct until rediscovered in Chile in 1994. Their Cabernet Sauvignon variety also thrives during the grape growing season due to the hot sunny climate in this part of Chile

During this day, you will visit the winery, with wine tasting and wine making included.

##### **Day 3: Santa Cruz → Pucon (B, L, D)**

Settle into our comfortable custom built truck as we journey south along the highway. Passing orchards and plantations of fruits and vegetables, as well as a big timber industry. We'll pass picturesque lakes and mountains to arrive into Pucon, located in the heart of Chile's Lakes District. On the way we will stop for lunch at the impressive Salto del Lajas waterfalls.



#### **Day 4: Pucon (B, L)**

Today we combine a wonderful natural environment with a cultural experience unique to this area. In the morning, we will visit either the Villarrica National Park or one of the surrounding national reserve parks, all of which protect thousands of hectares of rivers, waterfalls, alpine lakes and forest. In the afternoon, we visit a traditional Mapuche family and enjoy a traditional meal. We are invited to learn and experience the Ruka of the Mapuche people, the heart of their culture. You will learn about their daily life, musical instruments and enjoy a game of Palin, a game similar to hockey.

#### **Day 5: Pucon (B)**

Enjoy a day at leisure here where it is possible to organise numerous outdoor activities such as a one day hike up the Villarica Volcano to reach the smoking crater or take the bus out to Huerquehue National Park and experience the amazing lakes trail. You could enjoy kayaking, mountain biking, horse riding, fishing, white water rafting and even sky diving, or simply relaxing by the lake admiring the beauty of your surroundings.



#### **Day 6: Pucon → Bariloche (B, L, D)**

Crossing our first border we pass the gigantic Volcano Lanin (3737m) as we make our way through the Lanin National Park. Once we cross into Argentina you'll see the landscape change. After lunch sit back and marvel along the scenic seven lakes drive to Bariloche, Argentina a resort town nestled peacefully on the shores of the Nahuel Huapi Lake.



#### **Day 7: Bariloche (B)**

A free morning allows you time to head up to Cerro Otto via a gondola where you can sit in the revolving café with a 360 degree view. You can also explore the forest at the top spotting condors and falcons as you go.

In the afternoon, we take time to explore the scenic Circuito Chico in the Nahuel Huapi National Park following the road along the lake. We learn about how Bariloche got started, head up the chairlift to Cerro Campanario, stop at various lookout points and discover a hidden lake. We finish off this lovely afternoon at Argentina's most famous resort, Hotel Llao Llao, where we will enjoy High Tea over-looking the lake.



#### **Day 8: Bariloche (B)**

A day at leisure here gives you time to pursue interests such as sailing on the massive Nahuel Huapi Lake stopping at Isla Victoria and visiting the Arrayan Forest, horse riding on a local estancia, taking a tour to see the monstrous Tronodor peak, playing golf or hiking one of the many trails available in the area.



#### **Day 9: Bariloche (B)**

Depart Bariloche with wonderful memories

*Note: The information regarding itinerary is given in good faith and is subject to change and /or cancellation, due to weather / political and / or country instabilities and general safety / road conditions etc. Any such changes and/or cancellations which are in our control will be decided by the crew and will be discussed with the group beforehand whenever possible.*

## INCLUSIONS

### What's Included:

- 8 nights' accommodation in standard hotels
- Transport in our custom built all-terrain expedition vehicles
- Approximately 8 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 4 Dinners
- Services of an experienced western Tour Leader as well as Local Guides
- Experienced western Driver/Mechanic
- All National Park Entrance fees

### INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

CHILE	Santa Cruz	Colchagua Valley Vineyard Tour and Wine Making Experience
	Santa Cruz	Colchagua Museum
	Pucon	Hiking Villarrica National Park or Local Reserve
	Pucon	Traditional Mapuche Ruka Experience including meal
	DRIVE	Seven Lakes Scenic Drive between Pucon & Bariloche
ARGENTINA	Bariloche	Circuito Chico Tour
	Bariloche	Cerro Campanario Chairlift & Viewpoint
	Bariloche	High Tea at Llao Llao Resort

\*\*\*Please refer to the VIVA EXPEDITIONS GROUP TRAVEL HANDBOOK for more detailed information\*\*\*

## ARRIVING INTO SANTIAGO

### JOINING YOUR TOUR

The tour officially begins at 18:30 on Day 1 at our hotel in Santiago where we will have a pre-departure meeting in which your Tour Leader / Driver will welcome you to South America and give you a run down on what to expect.

Please bring to this meeting

- 2 photocopies of your passport (details page with your photo)
- A copy of your travel insurance policy (including emergency 24 hour contact number & policy number)
- 1 photocopy of your Argentine Reciprocity Fee with barcode (Canada passport holders only)

### TOUR HOTEL

#### **MATILDAS BOUTIQUE HOTEL**

Address: Calle Agustinas 2149, Santiago, Region Metropolitan, Chile  
Phone: (56-2) 2661 9700  
Web: [www.matildashotel.com](http://www.matildashotel.com)

*Please note that due to availability the joining hotel may change. Any changes will be notified to the client.*

## SANTIAGO AIRPORT TO THE TOUR HOTEL

From the airport to the joining hotel in Santiago is approximately 40 minutes depending on traffic. A taxi should cost you approximately USD\$40.00. Be sure to confirm this with the taxi driver prior to taking the journey or alternatively choose one of the black and yellow metered taxis.

You can pick up a taxi either outside the airport terminal or alternatively you can book your taxi at one of the taxi desks in the baggage reclaim hall before customs.

There is also a shuttle bus (Turtrans or Trans VIP) which is bookable at the airport and should cost approximately USD\$18.00 to the hotel.

Alternatively you can book one of our Santiago pre-tour packages which include an airport transfer, one nights pre-tour accommodation at our hotel and a half day city tour to orientate yourself in this wonderful city. Many people choose to spend an extra day or two in Santiago before the tour starts allowing some extra time to explore the city and the surrounding area.

Please ensure you book your pre tour packages as soon as possible after booking your tour or as soon as you have booked your flights to ensure availability.

All prices listed for pre-trip accommodation and airport transfers are approximate and subject to availability. (For information on city stays and extensions contact us at [info@vivaexpeditions.com](mailto:info@vivaexpeditions.com)).

## CHANGING MONEY ON ARRIVAL

On arrival into Santiago it is suggested that you change some currency into Chilean Pesos at one of the banks at the airport or withdraw some at one of the ATM's. The rates here should be the same as at the banks in town and are typically better than the rates offered at hotels.

## TIPPING KITTY

South America follows closely behind the USA regarding tipping. Although not mandatory, tipping is very much part of the South American culture and we believe good travel etiquette is to follow the culture of the country you visit. On your Viva Expeditions tour you will have a number of local guides, helpers and special moments that will require a tip. We understand that knowing who, how much and when can be confusing so to alleviate this your Tour Leader will talk to you at your pre-departure meeting regarding a Tipping Kitty. This will enable you to pay upfront and not have to worry about each individual tip as this will be done on your behalf.

To give you an idea of tipping costs:

Lake District Discovery (9D)	U\$ 15.00	R40 +Carretera Austral (6D)	U\$ 20.00
Southern Explorer. (13D)	U\$ 55.00	Wild Patagonia (27D)	U\$ 85.00

*PLEASE NOTE: Tipping is YOUR MONEY. At any time you do not feel the tip is warranted the tipping money shall be refunded.*

## ENDING IN BARILOCHE

Your tour ends on Day 9. There are no activities planned for this day so you may depart at whatever time suits you best.

Post tour transfers can be arranged with your tour leader during the trip or directly with the hotel on arrival into Ushuaia. This is not included in the tour price and can be paid locally.

Alternatively we can help you with any post tour arrangements you may require. Many people choose to spend an extra day or two in Ushuaia after the tour finishes allowing some extra time to explore the city and the surrounding area. For more information simply contact us at [info@vivaexpeditions.com](mailto:info@vivaexpeditions.com).