



# Route 40 & Carretera Austral

Bariloche to El Chalten – 7 Days

## TOUR DOSSIER

### *Off the Beaten Track in Argentina & Chile*

This tour is a great option for people wanting to visit these remote and unspoilt regions of Chile and Argentina. Due to the strength and durability of our vehicles we are able to visit these areas where conventional transport is unsuitable. Let us take the stress out of the journey while you enjoy the lakes, mountains and waterfalls of the region. Discover the Carretera Austral and explore the stunning landscapes of the Futaleufu Valley and the majestic Queulat Hanging Glacier. Finally discover the vast Patagonian steppe as we travel down Argentina's infamous route 40.



*Note: This tour begins with a morning departure from Bariloche, as such we recommend a minimum of one night pre tour accommodation in Bariloche before beginning the tour. This tour also connects with our Lakes District Discovery expedition that starts in Santiago and ends in Bariloche.*

### ITINERARY Bariloche – El Chalten

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

#### **Day 1: Bariloche → Futaleufu (L, D)**

This morning we depart Bariloche, passing through the town of Esquel where the “Old Patagonian Express” still runs. We have a short stop in Trevelin, a small town with links to Welsh immigrants. In the late afternoon, we cross into Chile and the scenery will immediately change as we arrive into the quaint town of Futaleufu.

#### **Day 2: Futaleufu → Queulat National Park (B, L, D)**

Today we turn onto the Carretera Austral (Southern Road) a remote, unspoilt region of intense natural beauty and is often referred to as one of South

America's best road trips. We stop along the way to take photos and admire the spectacular natural vistas. Wild rivers flow through lush forests, waterfalls tumble along steep cliff faces and the world is reflected in mirror lakes.

At lunch time, we arrive at the coastal fishing village of Puyuhuapi, located on the edge of the Chilean Fiords in a setting of incomparable beauty. In the afternoon, we get the rare opportunity to get up close and personal to a spectacular hanging glacier in the Queulat National Park. Enjoy the park's trails while being surrounded by virgin evergreen forests made up by species like coihue, tepa, and Chilean rhubarbs. Tonight we spend the night in cabins located on the edge of the Chilean Fiords.



### Day 3: Queulat National Park Region (B, L, D)

In such a remote and rugged area, you might just like to snuggle up in your cabin, but today you'll have the opportunity to hike to a nearby waterfall, take navigation to a personally owned island in the fjords or try a little sea kayaking (weather permitting).

### Day 4: Queulat National Park Region → Coyhaique (B, L, D)

A morning hike in the remote enchanted forest encompasses a short, steep trail with a variety of ecosystems from subtropical forest to glacial peaks. An afternoon drive along the Simpson River sees us pass lush pastures, mirror lakes and snow-capped mountains. We continue onto Coyhaique (considered the big smoke), where you can walk a viewpoint circuit around the city.



### Day 5: Coyhaique → Ruta 40 (B, L, D)

Today we have a wonderful drive through the Cerro Castillo Reserve with a chance to spot the rare Huemul deer. After lunch, we cross into Argentina and on to the famous Ruta 40 (Route 40). Travelling south through the vast Patagonian plains keep your eyes peeled for armadillos, rheas and guanacos. Tonight, we stop overnight at a remote Patagonian guesthouse.



### Day 6: Ruta 40 → Gobernador Gregores (B, L, D)

Today we make a special visit to the Cuevas de las Manos (Cave of the Hands) which one of the most important archaeological sites in South America. The caves feature paintings that are the most ancient artistic expressions of the native people of the subcontinent. The paintings were done by the first settlers of these lands, ancestors of the Tehuelche people (or Patagones), and date back to different periods from 9300 to 3300 years ago. The site was declared World Heritage by the UNESCO in 1999. We continue and spend the night in Gobernador Gregores, a small town with links the old caravan trail.



### Day 7: Gobernador Gregores → El Chalten (B, D)

A morning drive to enjoy the landscapes of the Patagonian Steppe as we head south. Further on we will arrive in El Chalten, and the Parque Nacional Los Glaciares. This ice field is the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest reserve of fresh water. Enjoy lodgings in our hotel nestled quietly under the imposing peaks of Mount Fitzroy, named after the captain of the *Beagle*, who navigated Darwin's Expedition of the area in 1834.

In the afternoon, you will have time to take on one of the short hikes available in the area. You can climb up to the eagle and condor lookout points, stroll along the river to a wonderful waterfall or head up to the Capri lake through the forest trail.



*Note: This tour concludes upon arrival in El Chalten, we recommend a minimum of one night post tour accommodation in El Chalten after finishing the tour. Alternatively continue south on our great Southern Explorer expedition.*

*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.*

## IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THIS TOUR

This tour can be joined directly with our **Lakes District Discovery** from Santiago to Bariloche (9 Days) and / or our **Southern Explorer** tour from El Chalten to Ushuaia (13 Days).

In order to be able to link these tours directly the following applies:

**This tour begins on the day we depart Bariloche.**

**This means that no accommodation, meals or activities are included in Bariloche prior to the tour beginning.**

We recommend one of the following options:

**1. Booking at least 1 night pre-tour accommodation at our tour hotel in Bariloche.**

We can also book your arrival transfer if required.

**2. Book our 3 night Bariloche pre-tour package.** *(Shared service by Viva Expeditions)*

This includes:

- 3 nights' accommodation incl. breakfast
- Arrival transfer from the airport to hotel
- Dinner on the evening of arrival
- Day Tour of the Circuito Chico
- High tea at Llao Llao resort
- A day at leisure in Bariloche.

**3. Combine this tour with our Lakes District Discovery tour from Santiago to Bariloche (9 Days).**

**This tour ends on the day we arrive in El Chalten.**

**This means that no accommodation, meals or activities are included in El Chalten.**

We recommend one of the following options:

**1. Booking at least 1 night post-tour accommodation at our tour hotel in El Chalten.**

We can also book your departure transfer if required.

**2. Book our 2 night El Chalten post tour package.** *(Shared service by Viva Expeditions)*

This includes:

- 2 nights' accommodation incl. breakfast
- A departure transfer
- Free day hiking Mt Fitzroy area
- Viedma Glacier Promontory Walk
- 1 evening meal and 1 lunch.

**3. Book our 4 night El Chalten & El Calafate post tour package.**

This includes:

- 2 nights' accommodation including breakfast in El Chalten
- Free day hiking Mount Fitzroy area
- Transport from El Chalten to El Calafate with stop at Historic Roadhouse
- 2 nights' accommodation including breakfast in El Calafate
- Full day tour to the Moreno Glacier including the Nautical Safari
- 2 evening meals and 2 lunches
- A departure transfer

**4. Combine this tour with our great Southern Explorer tour from El Chalten to Ushuaia (13 Days)**

For more information about any of the above information and/or packages contact us [info@vivaexpeditions.com](mailto:info@vivaexpeditions.com)

## INCLUSIONS

### What's Included:

4 nights' accommodation in standard hotels; 2 nights in shared log cabins

Transport in our custom built all-terrain expedition vehicles

Approximately 6 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 6 Dinners

Service of an experienced western tour leader as well as local guides

Experienced western Driver/Mechanic

All National Park Entrance fees

### INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

CHILE	DRIVE	Carretera Austral – South America's Best Road Trip
	Queulat	Queulat National Park and Hanging Glacier
	Queulat	Waterfall Hike or Fjord Boat Trip
	Queulat	Enchanted Forest Hike
ARGENTINA	Perito Moreno	Cuevas del las Manos (Hand Caves)

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

## ARRIVING INTO BARILOCHE

### JOINING YOUR TOUR

The tour officially begins at 07:00 on Day 1 at our hotel in Bariloche where we will immediately depart for our first drive day. **A pre-departure meeting will be held at 18:30 on the night before at the tour hotel.** At this meeting you will meet your Tour Leader / Driver who 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 (Canadian passport holders only)

### TOUR HOTEL

#### HOTEL CACIQUE INACAYAL

Address: Av. Juan Manuel de Rosas 625, San Carlos De Bariloche, Rio Negro, Argentina

Phone: (0054) 294 4433888 / 4466666

Web: [www.hotelinacayal.com.ar](http://www.hotelinacayal.com.ar)

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

## BARILOCHE AIRPORT TO THE TOUR HOTEL

**TRANSFER FROM BARILOCHE AIRPORT TO YOUR HOTEL IS NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR.**

From the airport to the joining hotel in Bariloche is approximately 20 minutes depending on traffic. A taxi should cost you approximately USD\$20.00 (in local currency). Be sure to confirm this with the taxi driver prior to taking the journey or alternatively choose one of the metered taxis. You can find taxis located outside the airport terminal.

Alternatively you can book one of our Bariloche pre-tour packages. Many people choose to spend an extra day or two in Bariloche 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 Bariloche it is suggested that you change some currency or US dollars into Argentinean Pesos at one of the forex bureau at the airport or in town. Alternatively, you can withdraw some cash at an ATM either at the airport or in town.

## 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 anytime you do not feel the tip is warranted the tipping money shall be refunded.*

## ENDING IN EL CHALTEN

Your tour ends on Day 7. We arrive into El Chalten in the early afternoon. At this point your tour concludes.

**There is no accommodation or meals included this night.** Please let us know if you would like us to book post tour accommodation.

Alternatively, we can help you with any post tour arrangements you may require. Many people choose to spend an extra day or two in El Chalten after the tour finishes allowing some extra time to explore the surrounding area.

For more information simply contact us at [info@vivaexpeditions.com](mailto:info@vivaexpeditions.com).