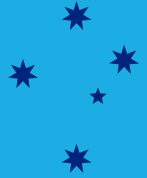




SOUTHERN CROSS*ROADS

JANUARY 17 – FEBRUARY 1, 2025



“The Carretera Austral is perhaps the most spectacular road in the world. If there is another that provides access to nearly 20 national parks, several national reserves, two of the world’s largest private open landscapes, soaring mountains, lakes, glaciers, forests and fjords, then I would like to know where it is.” Douglas Tompkins, co-founder The North Face

HIGHLIGHTS

ITINERARY VERSION 1.0, 4.28.24

Tour Length: 15 nights

Trip Start/End: Puerto Varas, Chile

Driving Distance: 1,200 sm/33 driving hours, approximately

Trip Features:

- Segments of the Carretera Austral, Panamerican Highway, and Argentina’s “Ruta 40”
- Chilean Lakes District and northern Patagonia
- Chiloé Island
- Numerous National Parks
- 5-hour car ferry crossing of Golfo de Ancúd
- All-day catamaran trip to Parque Nacional Laguna San Rafael
- Never-ending panoramic views of majestic mountains, lakes, rivers, fjords and volcanoes
- Opportunity to raft the world famous Futaleufú River (optional)

FRIDAY, 1/17, ARRIVE PUERTO MONTT/PUERTO VARAS (AIRPORT/HOTEL)

Arrive Puerto Montt, Chile and transfer to Hotel Bellavista in Puerto Varas. Cocktail hour and briefing, followed by Welcome Dinner at the hotel. *D*

SATURDAY, 1/18, PUERTO VARAS

After breakfast, get rental vehicles for those who have not yet secured them. Afterwards, we will spend the rest of the day getting used to driving as a group while visiting some of the many nearby sights to include Petrohué Falls, Lago Todos los Santos and Osorno volcano. *B/L*

SUNDAY, 1/19, PUERTO VARAS TO CHILOÉ

After breakfast we will drive to the port of Pargua for our 30-minute car ferry crossing to Chiloé, the largest island in the archipelago of the same name. We will get oriented to island history in Ancúd, then make our way to Puñihuil, where we will have lunch and take a boat ride to see the nearby penguin colonies. Afterwards, we will drive to Castro, and settle into our cozy cabins for two nights. *B/L*

MONDAY, 1/20, CHILOÉ

Free day or, for those who wish to drive more of the island, we can explore sites such as Dalcahué, Quinchao, and Chiloé Island National Park.

TUESDAY, 1/21, CHILOÉ TO YELCHO

We will have an early morning departure in order to catch our 8:00 a.m. ferry which leaves from the southern end of the island at Quellón.* Once on board, we will enjoy the 5-hour ferry ride back over to mainland Chile, docking at Chaitén. From there we will travel to our beautiful lakeside lodging at Yelcho en la Patagonia. *L/D*

**Ferry schedules will not be confirmed until December. Adjustments will be made as necessary.*

Overnight Destinations

Puerto Varas, Los Lagos (CH)
 Chiloé Island, Los Lagos (CH)
 Yelcho Lake, Los Lagos (CH)
 Puerto Chacabuco, Aysén (CH)

Puyuhuapi, Aysén (CH)
 Futaleufú, Los Lagos (CH)
 Bariloche, Río Negro (AG)
 Puerto Varas, Los Lagos (CH)

ITINERARY – CONTINUED



WEDNESDAY, 1/22, YELCHO

Free day to enjoy the various activities at and around beautiful Yelcho Lake, including but not limited to simply a relaxing read in a beautiful place. *B/D*

THURSDAY, 1/23, YELCHO TO PUERTO CHACABUCO

After breakfast we will travel as a group through spectacular scenery on the Carretera Austral to Puerto Chacabuco. We will make stops en route to enjoy the pristine countryside of lakes, rivers, volcanoes and glaciers, before arriving at Hotel Las Loberías, where we will stay for 2 nights. *B/L*

FRIDAY, 1/24, PUERTO CHACABUCO (PARQUE NACIONAL LAGUNA SAN RAFAEL)

Today is a full-day excursion by catamaran through the stunning fjords of the Pacific in order to reach Laguna San Rafael National Park, and the seaside glacier of the same name. Once there, we will go by group in Zodiacs to approach the glacier for an up-close experience. Breakfast, lunch and glacier martinis will be served on board. *B/L*

SATURDAY, 1/25, PUERTO CHACABUCO TO PUYUHUAPI

After breakfast we will reverse course a bit, enjoying a leisurely driving day to Puyuhuapi, with a stop at Parque Nacional Queulat to enjoy the Ventisquero River and falls. At Puyuhuapi, we park the cars at the docks for two nights, making the final 20 minutes on board the hotel ferry which will take us to their private landing at Termas de Puyuhuapi Lodge. *B/L/D*

SUNDAY, 1/26, PUYUHUAPI

Today is a free day to enjoy the surroundings, have a soak in the hot springs, or take advantage of other spa services. You may also coordinate with the lodge to take the ferry back to your vehicle should you wish to explore other areas by car. *B/D*

MONDAY, 1/27, PUYUHUAPI TO FUTALEUFÚ

After breakfast we will drive to the junction at Villa Santa Lucia, where we will turn off the Carretera Austral and head for the small town of Futaleufú, world famous for the river of the same name. This stretch through the Andes is nothing short of spectacular, and includes the far shores of Yelcho Lake. We will be two nights at the Casona Antigua hotel, right on the historic town square. *B/L/D*

TUESDAY, 1/28, FUTALEUFÚ

Enjoy a free day in this small, frontier town. Despite the small size of the village, it will be inundated with river rats and thrill-seekers, looking to notch their belt with a river adventure down the world-famous "Futa." Optional activities include rafting, kayaking, fly fishing, or just taking a rest to breathe in the crisp mountain air. *B*

WEDNESDAY, 1/29, FUTALEUFÚ TO BARILOCHE (ARGENTINA)

After breakfast, we will depart Futaleufú for Bariloche, crossing the border from Chile into Argentina. From there we'll make our way north to San Carlos de Bariloche, located in Argentina's Rio Negro province. A lunch stop will be made in beautiful El Bolsón, then we'll continue on to our hotel in Bariloche, along the shores of Lago Nahuel Huapi, an enormous glacial lake surrounded by the Andes Mountains. Enjoy two nights at Hotel Cacique Inacayal Hotel & Spa. *B/L*

THURSDAY, 1/30, BARILOCHE

Free day to enjoy a lakeside scenic drive or simply enjoy the view, the hotel spa, or take a stroll through the town and note the Swiss alpine architecture (and chocolate shops!) throughout the city center. *B/D*

FRIDAY, 1/31, BARILOCHE TO PUERTO VARAS

After breakfast, we will bid farewell to Argentina as we drive alongside the eastern shores of Lago Nahuel Huapi en route back to Chile. There will be customs and immigration formalities at the border, and we will wind our way back "home", to the Hotel Bellavista in Puerto Varas. There will be a farewell dinner where we relive the memories of this shared adventure. *B/L/D*

SATURDAY, 2/1, DEPARTURES

Breakfast is included at the hotel, and we will depart on our own schedules for home, or points beyond, as needed. *B*

This itinerary is subject to change as needed. Meal inclusions noted B/L/D, as appropriate.

TOUR MAP



Date	Origin	Destination	Driving Distance		
			(sm)	(km)	(hrs)
1/18/25	Puerto Varas	Puerto Varas	94	150	3
1/19/25	Puerto Varas	Castro	143	229	5.0
1/21/25	Castro	Quellón	50	80	1.5
1/21/25	Chaitén	Yelcho	32	51	1
1/23/25	Yelcho	Puerto Chacabuco	220	352	5.5
1/25/25	Puerto Chacabuco	Puyuhuapi	126	202	3
1/27/25	Puyuhuapi	Futaleufú	127	203	3.5
1/29/25	Futaleufú	Bariloche	223	357	5.5
1/31/25	Bariloche	Puerto Varas	189	302	5
TOTALS:			1204	1926	33

Southern Cross*Roads General Info

Below is some preliminary and general information which you may find helpful. We will have more official updates and details for those registering for the tour. Please let us know if you have questions not covered here; Google can serve as a good guide, too, as there are many tourist sites, traveler blogs and even YouTube videos of travel on the Carretera Austral.

Tour Starting Location

Our first two nights will be at Hotel Bellavista in Puerto Varas, Chile. Puerto Varas is located along the shores of Lago Llanquihue, and a 20-30 minute drive from the commercial airport of Puerto Montt, El Tepual International Airport (PMC). Puerto Montt is served by numerous flights daily from Santiago on LATAM and other airlines.

Rental Vehicle Information

We will all be traveling in rental cars, and there are many agencies located in Puerto Montt. If you are signing up with friends, you are encouraged to share a vehicle together, for all sorts of obvious reasons. There is a required permit of approximately US\$150 to take a rental car into Argentina.

Each customer will be responsible for the cost of all associated vehicle costs, to include rental, fuel, parking, ferry fees, insurance, etc.

Road Quality

The roads are generally good condition, with most segments being paved and others that are gravel. Many resources recommend 4WD and/or high clearance vehicles for greater peace of mind; however, all sections of our proposed route can be and have been safely traversed by two-wheel drive vehicles.

Ferry Information

We will be traveling on at least two car ferries on this trip—one is a short stretch from the mainland to Chiloé Island (from Pargua to Chacao); the other is a 5-hour transit across the Golfo de Ancúd back to the mainland (Quellón to Chaitén). The first operates on a continual basis and no reservations are necessary. The second longer trip requires prior reservations that include driver name, passport information as well as rental car information (including vehicle dimensions, etc.). We will cover these logistics down the road with all tour registrants.

Passports and Visas

Citizens of the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom need only a passport to enter both Chile and Argentina for up to 90 days. You will receive a tourist card upon arrival, which you will surrender upon exit.

Currency

We will be traveling primarily in Chile with two nights (3 traveling days) in Argentina. Currently, the conversion rate in local currency is as follows:

1 US dollar = 950 Chilean pesos

1 US dollar = 875 Argentine pesos

Weather

This trip will take place in the warmest portion of the Southern Hemisphere summer. That said, we will be traversing areas from coastal areas at sea level to alpine regions in the mountains. Expect high 60s, pack in layers, and keep a rain jacket handy. In summary, think: Alaska. You could experience four seasons in one day!