



Chile Patagonia National Park Trek

12 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT+SOBEKTM
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

➤ Chile Patagonia National Park Trek

Trace the footsteps of mountain pioneers and conservationists on this unique hiking adventure deep into the wildest reaches of northern Patagonia. From Coyhaique, travel across General Carrera Lake to Chile Chico, your launch point for an unforgettable 5-day trek past glaciers and turquoise lakes in the Jeinimeni wilderness, a former reserve now part of the new Patagonia National Park. Cross the border into Argentina before returning to Chile and journeying across the steppe grasslands and wetlands of the Chacabuco Valley, also now part of the national park. A lovely lodge on the Baker River is your base for a final 3-day trek around the base of the San Lorenzo massif, the second highest summit in Patagonia. Spot flamingo, guanaco, huemul, and foxes that now roam free of fences in the national park, share meals and stories with a gaucho family, and enjoy warm Patagonian hospitality. MT Sobek Presents: [On the Smuggler's Trail in Patagonia](#)

Details

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Arrive: | Balmaceda, Chile |
| Depart: | Balmaceda, Chile |
| Duration: | 12 Days |
| Group Size: | 6-14 Guests |
| Minimum Age: | 16 Years Old |
| Activity Level: | 5 |

Testimonials

"As a traveller with high expectations for adventure, MT Sobek continues to satisfy my need to access the roads less travelled. The logistics, the staff, the excellent guides, the itineraries that MT Sobek offer, are unmatched in my opinion."

Diane E.

"A wonderful experience with epic scenery."

Savitree S.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

☎ 1-800-974-0300

✉ info@mtsobek.com

Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01

MT Sobek pioneered commercial trekking in Patagonia in the 1970s. We continue to offer trailblazing routes throughout Chile and Argentina.

REASON #02

You will be in the company of local professional guides, who know this remote Patagonian wilderness and can expertly lead an ultimate challenge adventure.

REASON #03

This trip blends tough hikes with deep insight into the region, from the major bi-national conservation project to local life.

What to Expect



ACTIVITIES

This is a physically demanding ultimate challenge adventure, involving 7 full days of rigorous hiking, on average 5 to 16 miles a day on rugged terrain.



LODGING

A range of lodging, from comfortable hotels to remote mountain huts and wilderness camps supported by porters (or set up in advance).



CLIMATE

Expect extreme weather conditions that can change from one moment to another. Be prepared for everything, especially strong winds and sun.

Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

André fell in love with Patagonia at first sight and has made it his home for the last 10 years. He has participated in more than ten mountain expeditions in the region, accomplishing many first ascents, including the summits of the North and South Towers of the Torres del Paine. André has a great interest in the development of sustainable tourism and is always looking for other regions to explore within Patagonia. André's love for nature and respect for the mountains is infectious to all who travel with him.

Andre Labarca

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Itinerary

DAY 1

ARRIVE IN NORTHERN CHILEAN PATAGONIA

Arrive at Balmaceda Airport in Northern Patagonia. Meet your trip leader and transfer to your hotel in Coyhaique. Explore the town on your own, then gather in the evening for a group dinner and trip briefing.

Meals: D

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DAY 2

JOURNEY TO CHILE CHICO & HIKE LUNAR VALLEY

Depart early and travel through Cerro Castillo National Park and Ibañez Pass, known for its stunning views of the dramatic Castillo mountain range and the Rio Ibáñez. Board the Tehuelche Ferry in Puerto Ibañez for a 2.5-hour voyage across the second-largest lake in South America, known historically as Chelenco but now referred to as Lago General Carrera in Chile and Lago Buenos Aires in Argentina. Arrive in Chile Chico, a small mining and agricultural community on the lake's southern shore and a regional oasis with a uniquely warm, lake influenced microclimate. This afternoon, take a short hike in the Lunar Valley, taking in its surreal geological formations and evocative cave paintings of the Tehuelche culture. Overnight at cabins in Chile Chico.

Activity: 2 hours/2-3 miles hiking with no significant elevation gain

Meals: B, L, D

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DAY 3

HIKE FROM JEINIMENI LAKE TO GLACIER HUT

Travel across the Patagonian plains and along the Jeinimeni River (the geographical border between Chile and Argentina) to the north entrance of Patagonia National Park. Set off on a challenging, 16-mile hike along the vibrant turquoise waters of Jeinimeni Lake to Glacier Hut Camp. The trail crosses wide, shallow rivers with lots of glacial and river debris, then climbs over La Gloria Pass, with gorgeous views of Jeinimeni and Verde lakes, and many lofty peaks. Tackle a number of steep inclines before reaching Glacier Hut Camp in Valle Hermoso, your home for the night. Take a sunset stroll around the glacier lake then relax around the camp fire.

Activity: 9-10 hours/16 miles hiking with 750' elevation gain on one steep incline; cross multiple wide, shallow rivers

Meals: B, L, D

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DAY 4

TREK LAGO SUPERIOR CIRCUIT TO BAGUALES GLACIER

Embark on a technical trek of the Lago Superior circuit, stopping for a box lunch at the hanging glacier of Punta Guanaco peak. The hike is steep and ascends on eroded rock and gullies until it reaches the dramatic landscape of Baguales Glacier, named after the wild horses the original settlers found there. Enjoy the exhilarating views of glacial lakes and cascading waterfalls before returning via the same path to Glacier Hut Camp for dinner.

Activity: 4-5 hours/4 miles hiking with technical trek involving steep 1,000' elevation gain

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

TREK TO AVILES VALLEY

Rise early for a hike with breathtaking views of the Jeinimeni, El Tronador and Las Llaves Mountain ranges and ragged peaks. Our path leaves behind the open alpine to enter the lush northwest evergreen forest. Walk down to the Avilés Valley, around lagoons to an old Lenga Forest, and to a remote, newly constructed wilderness camp. Along the way, catch glimpses of the past as we trek past abandoned shelters built by gauchos.

Activity: 5-6 hours/9 miles hiking with 300' elevation gain and 1900' elevation loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

TREK MOUNT TRONADOR LOOKOUT CIRCUIT

Hike up the north Avilés Valley and through beech forests in search of the endangered Magellanic woodpecker and Huemul deer. Reach up to a side debris of Mount Tronador, with great views of the surrounding glaciers, then return to camp for an early dinner.

Activity: 5-6 hours/6.5 miles hiking with 500' elevation gain and loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

TREK FROM AVILÉS RIVER TO CHELENCO LAKE – CHILE CHICO

The last day of the first backcountry trek traverses the wide rivers of the Avilés Valley. Depending on weather conditions, enjoy exhilarating river crossings, complete with rope systems and harnesses! Follow cattle trails used by gauchos to get their animals to summer pasture, including some narrow-cut trails beside a canyon. Arrive back at Chelenco Lake (Lago General Carrera), near the old mining village of Fachinal, and meet the van for a rugged, bumpy drive back to Chile Chico. Take in spectacular views of the lake and surrounding mountain terrain.

Activity: 9-10 hours/14 miles hiking with 500' elevation gain, 1000' elevation loss; two river crossings with rope systems and harnesses

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Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8

EXPERIENCE CONSERVATION IN PATAGONIA NATIONAL PARK

Cross back and forth across the border with Argentina today, driving via the Argentinian town of Los Antiguos, then south to Monte Zeballos within the Argentinian side of Patagonia National Park. Return to Chile at Entrada Baker Pass, once used by the pioneers to colonize the Aysen region. Drive along the park, stopping at the restored house of a British pioneer, passing guanaco herds and lakes with flamingos and crested ducks. This once overgrazed sheep and cattle ranch now protects an abundance of Patagonian steppe grasslands and rebounding wildlife. The national restoration project here is one of the largest of its kind in the world. Visit the information center to learn about the fascinating details of this project. Arrive late this afternoon at the peaceful Borde Baker Lodge on the emerald-colored Baker River.

Activity: Optional short hike

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 9

HIKE THE TRANQUILO VALLEY TO CORDON COCHRANE

Drive to Cochrane, stopping for a short walk to stretch the legs, then continue to San Lorenzo Camp, your base for the next two nights. From the camp trailhead, hike through a beech forest and past heart-shaped Corazon Lake, then deep into the Tranquilo Valley and up to the Cordon Cochrane Mountain range amphitheater with its shimmering hanging glaciers and array of amazing unclimbed peaks. Return to San Lorenzo Camp for dinner and overnight.

Activity: 7 hours/14 miles hiking with 500' elevation gain to camp, and then 1,500' elevation gain and loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 10

FOLLOW TRAILS TO REFUGIO AGOSTINI & ENJOY VIEWS OF SAN LORENZO MASSIF

Take a trail through a beech forest that opens onto a valley with views of the San Lorenzo Mountains. Explore the remains of a rustic hut built by Alberto De Agostini, an Italian priest and mountaineer who was the first to summit San Lorenzo. Weather permitting, eat lunch with views of an alpine lake and the pinnacles of the massif. Return to San Lorenzo Camp for a typical gaucho barbeque with the locals, complete with music and tales of the legendary pioneers and adventurers who first explored this rugged land.

Activity: 7 hours/12 miles hiking with 700' elevation gain

Meals: B, L, D

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DAY 11

HIKE TO MIRADOR CONFLUENCIA & RELAX AT RIVERSIDE LODGE

After an early breakfast, take a bumpy road back to the Borde Baker Lodge. En route, stop for a short hike to Mirador Confluencia. The afternoon is at your leisure; enjoy fishing, take a well-deserved soak in the hot tub, or simply relax. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner at the lodge.

Activity: 2-3 hours/5 miles hiking with 200' elevation gain

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 12

DEPART FROM CHILE

Rise early for a morning departure to Balmaceda Airport. It's a long drive along the Carretera Austral, but the spectacular views of General Carrera Lake, beech and larch trees, and the Patagonian Andes are worth it. Enjoy a packed lunch along the way.

Meals: B, L

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Dates

Nov 17 - 28, 2023

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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Inclusions & Exclusions

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers, as well as camp staff
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses

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