

# SOUTH AMERICA - GRAND PATAGONIA OVERLAND



TRIP CODE
CLTSGPO
DURATION
7 Days
LOCATIONS
Chile


## INTRODUCTION

The Carretera Austral is a national highway in Chile that begins where the Lakes District ends, snaking south for 1240 km into a land of narrow canyons, dense forests and snow-capped mountains while you get close to some of the most impressive glaciers in South America.

Also known as the Southern Highway, this 7-day journey will take you to the heart of Chilean Patagonia where you will visit the beautiful towns of Puerto Montt, Hornopirén, el Sauce hot springs and Coyhaique among other places.

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Puerto Montt /Hornopirén

Reception at the airport in Puerto Montt Tepual and start the journey to the south on Route 7, known as Austral Road (Carretera Austral). The part of the road from Puerto Montt to Hornopirén combines inland transport involving a ferry crossing in regular service.



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### DAY 2: Hornopirén/Caleta Gonzalo/Lago Yelcho

Breakfast. We will have to be at the pier at 9.30am to embark for our journey to Caleta Gonzalo through the Bimodal route. This route is divided into three sections: Section 1: Every day from Hornopirén to Leptepu, depart at 10:30 in the barge MAILEN, duration around 3:30 hours. Section 2: We will continue the journey through a narrow gravel road, for 10 kms, duration around 30mins. Section 3: Crossing for half hour from Long Fjord to Caleta Gonzalo, departure at 15:30. After arriving at the town of Caleta Gonzalo, we will continue along the Austral Road to the south for approximately 100 kms to the Lake Yelcho sector. Earlier, we will do a walk in the path of the Alerces, which gives you the opportunity to admire these ancient forests surrounded by pristine nature.



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### DAY 3: Lago Yelcho/ La Junta

Breakfast. In the morning we will trek around the lodge, enjoying the wonderful nature of the area. Lunch is at the lodge. In the afternoon we will continue the route to the south along the legendary Austral Road to the village La Junta (100 kms approx. taking about 1 ¼ hours). Along the way you will see many point of interests, such as the town of Santa Lucia and the Rio Palena. Arrival at Espacio y Tiempo Hotel, dinner and overnight.



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### DAY 4: Río Palena & Naturales El Sauce Hot Springs

Departure from La Junta and only 1 km from the town you will find the River Rosselot, the place where you will start the excursion. After a short safety briefing and informative instruction, we will start to descend the river. After sailing for about 1 km on the River Rosselot, you will see the confluence of Palena, one of the three major tributaries of the Aysen region. On the tour, you will see beautiful scenery provided by nature and the varied fauna of Patagonia, accompanied by countless species of birds. After sailing for about 3 hours, we finally arrive at the beach, where the vehicle will be waiting to head to the east, the way to Puerto Raúl Marín Balmaceda. After traveling 7 kms, you reach Naturales El Sauce Hot Springs. At these springs we will give you a box lunch to enjoy later. You will be able to take a thermal bath in warm water pools that are 100% natural, acquiring the great benefits that these waters deliver, as well as being able to relax and enjoy the beautiful landscape. Later we will return to the town of La Junta.



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### DAY 5: La Junta / Coyhaique

Breakfast and departure to continue our trip south on the Austral Road, as far as the village of Puyuhuapi (44 kms, 1 hr. approx.), which we visit before continuing on to the National Park Queulat. In the National Park you can enjoy the splendour of Queulat hanging glacier and forest trails. Lunch is in the National Park. Then we will continue to the capital Coyhaique (222 kms, 4 hours approx.).



### DAY 6: Coyhaique

Breakfast and transfer to Bonanza, located on the slopes of the Franciscans hill, where you will start an easy horse ride with horses used to dealing with tourists. You will receive the correct equipment for your safety, and then start the journey through forests, streams and along paths with a panoramic view of the entire valley of Coyhaique. BBQ and then a quick rest to enjoy the scenery.



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### DAY 7: Coyhaique / Aeropuerto Balmaceda

Breakfast and depending on the flight schedule, the morning is free to explore the city centre, visiting the craft fair with crafts of the Aysen region. Transfer to Balmaceda airport (55 km) to take the return flight.



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### INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	<p>Transfers in regular tourist services in comfortable and modern vehicle.</p> <p>Ticket Bimodal route, Hornopirén / Caleta Gonzalo.</p> <p>Accommodation according to the program description</p> <p>Visit of the hot springs Naturales El Sauce, with rafting and box lunch</p> <p>Visit of the National Park Queulat with box lunch</p> <p>Horse riding in Bonanza with BBQ</p> <p>Water and snacks during the transfer</p> <p>Souvenir</p> <p><b>Not included:</b></p> <p>International flights</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Departs min with 4 pax
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

### SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you’re visiting.

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- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu’s “Pass it on” programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures’ offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure’s internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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