

SCENIC LAKE DISTRICT

Ideal Months: March & April

The Northern District stretches from Lake Alumine in the North, down to Esquel in the South, covering 4 beautiful National Parks (from North to South): Lanin (San Martin de los Andes), Nahuel Huapi (Bariloche), Lago Puelo (El Bolson) and Los Alerces (Esquel).

The Andes stand proud throughout much of the region; punctuating one of the most beautiful, well-preserved landscapes in the Western Hemisphere with majestic mountains being mirrored in glacial waters, and ancient forests covering undulating hillsides and plains. The Lake District is also awash with endless scenic hikes, boat rides, trails and photo opportunities, making it not only one of the most picturesque, but also most adventurous, engaging, and un-missable regions in the country.



DAY 01- SAN CARLOS DE BARILOCHE- VILLA LA ANGOSTURA

Bariloche	Meet and greet at Bariloche International Airport & transfer to Villa La Angostura. Sunset photo outing by the Nahuel Huapi Lake included. Then free time to get settled.
Villa La Angostura	Villa La Angostura is a small charming village, located on the opposite bank of the Nahuel Huapi Lake. This is a young area, a lovely summer village and a small ski resort, ideal for local people and for those who want to avoid crowds. Although growing fast, one block from the main street and we will be able to listen to birdsongs and smell the pine trees.

DAY 02 – VILLA LA ANGOSTURA

Villa La Angostura	<p>Lake touring and scenic drive. At morning, from the small pier at Tunquelen (km 24) we set sail and navigate the waters of the Nahuel Huapi lake for about 30 minutes until we reach the Northern part of Victoria Island.</p> <p>Our comfortable boat will dock at Puerto Anchorena from where we will have the chance to explore the island or do some easy walks to panoramic lookout points.</p> <p>We will visit Lago Espejo and the Continental Divide during the afternoon to enjoy sunset in the Andes.</p>
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DAY 03 – VILLA LA ANGOSTURA- SAN MARTIN DE LOS ANDES

Villa La Angostura

Seven lakes. We will take the morning to drive the iconic Seven Lakes Road on our way to San Martin de los Andes.

The drive from beginning to end is a two to three-hour drive on gravel road, but the true spirit of it is to make a stop at each of the seven lakes of stunning beauty with waters that go from deep blue, glittering turquoise to emerald green. We start from Villa La Angostura; and we enter the road that connects the amazing lakes of Correntoso, Espejo, Villarino, Falkner, Hermoso, Machónico, and Meliquina. Finally, we arrive in San Martín de los Andes on the shores of Lácar Lake.

Lunch will be included.

San Martin de los Andes

Evening to explore on your own on the charming ski village of San Martin de los Andes.

The myriad of rivers and lakes around Bariloche, Villa La Angostura and San Martin de los Andes allow for great fly fishing in picture-perfect, remote settings. Serious anglers from around the world travel to these streams and rivers in search of trout and salmon, though they are also ideal for white-water river rafting, kayaking and even snorkelling.



DAY 04- SAN MARTIN DE LOS ANDES

San Martin de los Andes	<p>Early morning drive to see Lanin Volcano at sunrise and visit the unique ancient Araucaria Forest by Tromen Lake.</p> <p>Afernoon visiting Huechulaufquen and Paimuin Lakes for a sunset photo shoot of Lanin's glaciated SW face in the background.</p>
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DAY 05- SAN MARTIN DE LOS ANDES – BARILOCHE

San Martin de los Andes	<p>Patagonian Steppe. Drive along the meandering Chimehuin Valley and morning photo shoot of Condors at the Chimeuín Condor Cloffs lookout. Lunch in our way.</p>
Bariloche	<p>During the afternoon we will visit Valle Encantado. (58 km from Bariloche approximately). There we will see strange rocks shapes which have received names as El Dedo de Dios, Centinela, Tren Expreso, etc.</p> <p>San Carlos de Bariloche and the Nahuel Huapi Lake are the landmarks of the Southern portion of the Lake District and are –maybe the most developed. Of unparalleled beauty they offer everything to cater for every taste: From the gourmands that seek great food and local delicacies to the wanderers, to those looking for soft adventure experiences while horse riding, hiking, climbing, paddling to the hard core explorer.</p>



DAY 06- BARILOCHE

Bariloche

Bariloche Vistas Scenic Tour. Full day visiting Circuito Chico, Mt. Campanario, & Mt. Catedral Ridge with lunch included.

Visit of Bariloche and its surroundings including Llao Llao area and a panoramic drive by the Nahuel Huapi Lake.

The visit starts in Bariloche, following its main road – Bustillo Avenue- which runs parallel to the Nahuel Huapi Lake. All the way is along a paved road that will lead us to Llao Llao peninsula, with its namesake hilltop hotel and San Eduardo Chapel, two landmarks of this region. We will cross the bridge over the Angostura River, the natural link between Nahuel Huapi and Moreno Lakes, and further on we pass by López Bay at the foot of Mount López. This scenic drive has its highlight at the so call Lookout Point, a belvedere with a magnificent view of Moreno Lake and Llao Llao peninsula at the back.

Leaving behind El Trebol Lagoon we will get back to Bustillo Ave and will reach Campanario Mount. A chair lift (not included) will take us to the top (1050 m) from where we have a panoramic view of the city and the lake. Like in a map: Nahuel Huapi and Moreno lakes, El Trébol lagoon, San Pedro and Llao Llao peninsulas, Victoria Island, Otto, López, Goye and Catedral hills, and the main town, San Carlos de Bariloche are displayed.

From there, a winding road with beautiful vistas will lead us back to the city center.

DAY 07 -BARILOCHE

Bariloche

Hidden Falls. This trip brings you over the Nahuel Huapi lake into the Patagonian rainforest of the Nahuel Huapi National Park.

After a 25 minutes transfer arrive to Puerto Pañuelo. The catamaran navigates along the long and narrow Blest arm. During the entire journey, you will enjoy the spectacular landscape: thick forest, imposing mountain peaks and transparent glacial waters.

The entrance to the Blest arm is guarded by mountains Capilla and Millaqueo and Centinela island. On this island, the remains of Francisco Moreno, the creator of the Argentine national parks, are buried. Neither streets nor villages can be seen on the foothills of the mountains.

After sailing for one hour, the boat reaches Puerto Blest, a small spot with a landing stage and a hotel. This is the starting point for trekkings into the national park. You are now within the Valdivian jungle, which is one of the places with more rain in Argentina. The average rainfall is 3,000mm per year. Therefore, be prepared for rain showers!

Enormous trees like the coihue and alerce or larch grow in this jungle. Thanks to

the humidity a proliferation of herbs, ferns, moss, and fungus can be found. A marked path takes you to the lagoon and Los Cántaros waterfall. From this point, the opposite side of Puerto Blest can be seen.

There is also an information centre, designed to help you interpret the local species. We will visit the bay and the Frias River, famous for its green waters originated in one of the glaciers in Tronador Mountain.

After having enjoyed this relaxing stop we will sail back to Puerto Pañuelo and transfer to the hotel.



DAY 08- BARILOCHE

Bariloche

Tronador. Visit the hanging glaciers of Mt Tronador. Lookouts of Mascardi Lake and Manso River. With lunch included.

Full day visit to Mt. Tronador, (the highest peak in Northern Patagonia), an extinct volcano 11722 feet/ 3554 m high whose name refers to the frequent rumbles caused by ice falling from the face of several glaciers (ventisqueros) than cling to the mountain's three peaks.

We leave Bariloche to the South and drive parallel to the entire length of Gutiérrez and Mascardi lakes. Further on, the road reaches the West Arm of Mascardi Lake and following a winding road we get to Hosteria Pampa Linda. We leave behind the hosteria and drive towards the Saltillo de las Nalcas (Small Waterfall). Upon arrival we cross a hanging bridge and get into a small lenga (*Nothofagus pumilio*) and canes (*Chusquea culeou*) forest which will take us to a

	<p>lookout point at the small Waterfall. Surrounding the fall, we will appreciate the impressive “nalca” leaves (Chilean rhubarb) that can grow as big as a meter wide.</p> <p>We return to Pampa Linda for lunch and in the afternoon will visit one of Tronador’s glacier – the Manso Glacier commonly known as Ventisquero Negro (Black glacier) from a lookout point at the foot of Mt Tronador. The view is amazing: three imposing peaks Argentino (3554m), Internacional (3554m) and Chileno (3410m) that form the natural border between Argentina and Chile.</p> <p>On the way back, a detour takes us to Cascada Los Alerces (Los Alerces Waterfall), a natural phenomenon: The Manso River, originates on the summit of Mount Tronador, and descends towards the Atlantic basin, forming the Cascada Los Alerces on the way. We return to Bariloche following the same route.</p>
DAY 09- BARILOCHE	
Bariloche	<p>Morning to visit the city of Bariloche, get tempted with its delicious chocolates and its local crafts.</p> <p>Transfer to the airport.</p>

Weather in Patagonia

Weather conditions: *Weather is highly unpredictable. Particularly in spring or early summer, fine weather may deteriorate almost without warning, as violent westerly storms sweep in from the Pacific Ocean. Strong westerly winds are usually at their worst from November to January, but typically continue through the end of April. Temperature can vary a lot too, ranging from -5C to 25 C, averaging 15 C.*

What to pack:

Basic pack should include:

- Day pack
- 1 or 2 pants
- Polar wear / warm sweater.
- Light pullover / sweatshirt.
- Water bottle.
- Camera and memory.
- Trekking shoes (that have been broken in)
- Comfortable gym shoes for resting.
- Warm parka and windbreaker.
- Gloves, cap, bandanna, sunglasses.
- Sunscreen / sun block