

## Chile Road Cycling - 12 Days

### The Lakes and Volcanoes District



Discover the Lake and Volcano District cycling Chile's southern back roads. Explore this fascinating part of the country dominated by clear-water lakes and amazing live volcanoes. Together with friendly locals, you will pedal alongside green rolling meadows, visit local ethnic villages and relax in soothing natural hot springs. This tour is for nature lovers. For 12 days you will visit protected wild areas and observe endemic birds, learn about some of the most active Chilean volcanoes, and hike through native temperate rain forest. For those who are looking for extra active sports in a pristine nature setting, this is surely the trip for you. In addition to road cycling, hiking on glaciers and mountain-biking in national parks provide more ways to experience the Lake and Volcano District. The thermal waters of this area are some of the best in the world; due to the volcanic activity, you can find hot springs and thermal spas almost everywhere you go. Likewise, the cuisine is another highlight of the tour, with the ingredients that have made Chile known worldwide: wine, delicious produce and seafood from the Pacific Ocean.

**Ride, rest and relax** - Our tour starts in Temuco, the capital city of La Araucania, and from there we head off to the Andean areas of this untamed land, cycling almost entirely on quiet well paved roads that go alongside different lakes and volcanoes. We stay at 3-star and 4-star charming hotels and inns and enjoy hot springs 4 times during the tour.

**Chile, a road cycling paradise** - Most of the cycle legs of this tour take you along quiet back roads. The route meanders through light undulating country, but also features some decent climbs, such as the 2100 m high pass at Pino Hachado near the Chile and Argentina border

**More than just road cycling** - The many optional activities on offer during this tour make it stand out from the 'standard' road cycling tour. The programme is rounded out with options to go rafting, hiking, horse back riding or mountain biking in pristine natural environments.

### Tour Itinerary

#### Day 1: Santiago to Temuco

On arrival, we will meet you at Temuco Airport, transfer you to the city for check-in at the tour hotel. The rest of the day is at your leisure and gives you time to rest or assemble your bike. The local staff will collect any pedals and seats for the rental bikes and set them up for the next day. In the evening, you will meet your guides and fellow riders for a 'Welcome Dinner'. After the meal we have an orientation and briefing session with maps and riding profiles.

*Accommodation: Hotel*

*Meals: Dinner*

*No cycling*

#### Day 2: Temuco to Lautaro – Malalcahuello

After an early morning start, we travel 30km (18.6 miles) in our support vehicle to the town of Lautaro. From the main square we start our road bike tour by pedaling towards the Andean Mountain Range. The undulating terrain is on smooth roads with great views of the Llaima, Lonquimay and Tolhuaca volcanoes. As

we follow an extensively green valley, we are tested by two short climbs and a fun descent before arriving in the city of Curacautín. At the Plaza of Curacautín we will regroup and have a picnic lunch. From here, the road ascends as we enter the foothills of the Andes. We are following the Cautín River as the valley narrows and we keep climbing until arriving at a high plateau in the village of Malalcahuello. Once we have checked in at the hotel, a soothing thermal bath awaits us. We will stay in this hotel for two nights.

*Accommodation: Hotel Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Cycling: 105 km / 65 mi, approx. 4 hours riding*

### **Day 3: Sierra Nevada via Liucura to Pino Hachado (border with Argentina)**

In the morning, the support vans will take us to the Sierra Nevada Range through the Las Raíces tunnel - the longest tunnel in Chile (4.5 km / 2.8 miles). We start our ride by travelling along the valley floor following the Lonquimay River. The 60km / 37mile section features one of the smoothest roads in Chile. Riding along International Route 181, we pass through the tribal lands of different Pewenches indigenous communities. The road keeps 'rolling along' with false-flat sections and a few small climbs, but also good down hills, until we reach the Chilean Customs in Liucura. We will have to leave our passports with the police and then pedal up some serious gradients for about 25km / 14mi to reach our peak altitude of 2,100m / 6,881 feet at Pino Hachado. At the top you will be rewarded with the breathtaking scenery of the Andes and will step on Argentinean soil (without entering the country). Later we descend back to Liucura, reunite with the support vehicle and transfer back to our hotel. Over dinner, we will review the route profiles and maps for the following days, and maybe watch a slideshow of the best pictures of the trip.

*Accommodation: Hotel Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Cycling: 104 km / 64 mi, approx. 5 hours riding.*

### **Day 4: Malalcahuello via Padre Las Casas and Cunco to Melipeuco - Pucón**

The road we will be cycling on today starts at Padre Las Casas and is well paved. The route is used by local cyclists to train for the National Championships and cuts through farmland in the rolling hills of La Araucanía. It is the home of the Mapuche people and the landscape is characterised by a mix of rolling hills, scenic Nothofagus tree forests and green meadows. The locals call this section 'The Rollercoaster', because of its constant ascents and descents. After re-grouping and a picnic lunch at Cunco, a small old-fashioned town, we ride towards Llaima Volcano - the most active volcano in South America. Finally, we arrive at the town of Melipeuco, load the bikes and transfer to Pucón (two hours). Pucón is the main adventure tourism destination in the Lake and Volcano District. We are staying here for two nights.

The evening is at your leisure (dinner is not included). We highly recommend you explore this nice touristy town with its many shops, restaurants, bars and cafes. Ask our guides, if you need some local knowledge about dining and good shopping.

*Accommodation: Hotel Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Cycling: 90 km / 56 mi, approx. 3.5 hours riding*

### **Day 5: Pucón – Caburgua Lake – Huife Hot Springs - Pucón**

The road today is a constant false-flat with a few rolling hills – just enough to get our legs going! We cycle from Pucón to the village of Caburgua where we have a snack break at Lake Caburgua. Throughout today's ride, our guide will help us identify several species of birds and trees as we pass through beautiful natural areas and enjoy views of the Villarrica volcano. With a little good luck, we will see smoke coming out of the active volcano. After cycling the rolling road to Huife, we visit the Hot Spring Resort, have lunch and enjoy a soothing soak in a hot mineral bath. Later we transfer back to Pucón in the vans, where the rest of the evening is at leisure (dinner is not included).

*Accommodation: Hotel Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Cycling: 55 km / 34 mi, approx. 2.5 hours riding*

### **Day 6: Pucón via Villarrica, Licanray, Coñaripe and Panguipulli to Huilo Huilo**

Each day brings new beauty on this tour, and today is no exception. Today we ride along the shores of the beautiful Lakes Calafquén and Panguipulli on a three-quarter circumnavigation of the majestic, snow-capped Villarrica Volcano. We pass through the lakeside towns of Licanray and Coñaripe on roads through green fields and native forests. This section features one moderate climb of 4km / 3 mi followed by a descent. After a picnic lunch at Calafquén Lake, we continue for 34km / 21mi through fields and native forests on a smooth, quiet road hardly ever used by vehicles. At one point we should be able to see five volcanoes. In the town and lake of Panguipulli, meaning 'land of lions' we pack the bikes and transfer 1.5 our rest day.

*Accommodation: Hotel Meals: B,L,D Cycling: 91 km / 56 mi, approx. 4 hours riding*

### **Day 7: Natural Reserve Huilo-Huilo**

A day of rest from your bicycles doesn't mean you have nothing to do. There are activities here for everyone including hiking trails, horseback riding and easy walks to spectacular waterfalls. For the adventurous, there are two canopy (zip line, similar to a high ropes course) options. Within the Park there are four hiking trails: the Magnetic Stones trail (3hr hike, medium), the Triful Route (3hr hike, medium), the Triful River (6hr hike, difficult) and Quinchamalí Lookout (3hr hike, easy). Some of the highlights include a botanical forest, scenic

clear-water lagoons, mighty waterfalls and amazing views of snow-capped volcanoes (additional cost of approx. US\$25 each hike). For those who want to learn about the reserve's plants and wildlife, there are scientific walks that focus on botany, bird watching, and geology, as well as on flora & fauna interpretation. A terrific way to experience the beauty of the area is with a canopy tour (zip lines); a group of platforms between 20-100m / 80-330 feet apart that are linked to each other by hanging bridges and suspended steel wires. You'll literally feel like you are flying over the rainforest, rivers and canyons as you glide across the cables (additional cost of approx. US\$50).

*Accommodation: Hotel                      Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner                      No cycling*

#### **Day 8: Osorno via Entre Lagos and Puyehue to Aguas Calientes**

We leave Huilo Huilo and Panguipulli, and start this day with a relaxed morning transfer. The first 135 km (84 miles) will be covered in our van on the Pan-American highway until Osorno city. We leave the highway behind to ride our bikes towards the Andes Mountain Range along the shores of Lake Puyehue. We will ride through rolling hills and past beautiful beaches, always on the lookout for wildlife and with views of 4 volcanoes (Osorno, Puntiagudo, Casablanca and Puyehue). With the lake on one side, green pastures and fields on the other, and the snow-capped Andes in the distance, this will be another picturesque day on our bicycles. The cycling today consists of small hills and long, flat stretches for most of the day, but be sure to save enough energy for the final climb up to Aguas Calientes. As on previous days, we will stay at the hotel for two nights.

*Accommodation: Hotel                      Meals: B,L,D                      Cycling: 78 km / 48 mi, approx. 3 hours riding*

#### **Day 9: Termas de Puyehue to Argentinean Border (climb the ANDES) - Retour**

The cycling today is a constant climb. The first leg of 8km / 5mi starts at Puyehue Hotel and climbs to the Chilean Customs office. The second, more comprehensive leg of 42km / 26mi climbs the foothills of the Andes Mountain Range. We ride up a smooth windy road through Puyehue National Park until reaching the border with Argentina (altitude: 1300m / 4,255 ft) and then return to our hotel in the vans (or cycle back 50 km). The rest of the day is at your leisure to enjoy the thermal Spa of Aguas Calientes.

*Accommodation: Hotel                      Meals: B,L,D                      Cycling: 50 km / 31 mi, approx. 3 hours riding*

#### **Day 10: Frutillar via Puerto Octay and Las Cascadas to Puerto Varas**

Today's ride takes us along the northeast shore of Lake Llanquihue, the second largest lake in Chile. We start cycling from Frutillar, a small quaint German-style village with great views of Osorno Volcano and Lake Llanquihue. The smooth and quiet road leads us over some small hills. The strong German character of this area cannot be missed, as we ride through the villages of Puerto Octay and Las Cascades. We finish the ride in Puerto Varas, where we stay for the next two nights. The rest of the evening is at your leisure. Puerto Varas is a lovely touristy city with great shopping, restaurants and a Casino (dinner is not included). Ask our guides if you need some local knowledge on eating out and good shopping.

*Accommodation: Hotel                      Meals: Breakfast, Lunch                      Cycling: 105 km / 65 mi, approx. 4 hours riding*

#### **Day 11: Puerto Varas via Ensenada to Petrohue Falls**

It is the last 'riding' day of our tour and we attempt to make it one of the best. In the morning, the minibuses will take us back to the shores of Lake Llanquihue. We have all day to admire the unique landscape with the perfect cone of Volcano Osorno towering over the Southeast end of the lake. We start pedalling from Puerto Varas to Petrohue Falls, 'attacking' 57km / 36mi in one of the most beautiful areas of the tour. The foot of the Volcano seems to touch the shore of the lake and our route via the village of Ensenada heads straight for this astounding landscape. At the end of the ride, we will visit the picturesque volcanic waterfalls. The return journey to Puerto Varas will be in our support van – unless you are feeling energetic and want to ride the same way back to the hotel.

*Accommodation: Hotel                      Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner                      Cycling: 57 km / 36 mi, approx. 4 hours riding*

#### **Day 12: Puerto Varas to Airport in Puerto Montt (PMC)**

It is time to say 'Good-bye' to the beautiful Lake and Volcano District of Chile. After breakfast, we will transfer the group to Puerto Montt Airport to catch the flight back to Santiago. We can only hope that this was a trip you will always remember! Our Tour ends at the airport of Puerto Montt.

*Accommodation: Hotel                      Meals: Breakfast                      No cycling*

## **Tour Information**

### **Included in 12 day Tour Price:**

- 11 nights in 2-4 star hotels as per itinerary (based on twin share)
- Meals provided as per itinerary:

[www.innovative-travel.com](http://www.innovative-travel.com)

Trade Reservations: 0508 100 111

- Breakfast and snack/lunch on all days (en-route snacks include: mineral water, energy drinks, trail-mix, fresh fruit and gourmet sandwiches)
- Dinner on all except three evenings as per itinerary
- Private transportation with luggage trailer (one vehicle for up to 12 riders, two for 13 riders & over).
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure day
- Professional guide/mechanic
- Basic cycle parts (cable housing, tubes, tyres and spokes)
- Gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Entrance fee at Huiife Hot Springs, and all activities according to the itinerary.
- Chile Tour Riding Jersey

**Not Included:**

- International flights and taxes
- Domestic flight to Temuco and return from Puerto Montt
- Insurance (you MUST have your own insurance)
- Other cycle parts and components (derailleur, crankset, fork, etc)
- Laundry\* Beverages & cocktails not included on menus Passport or travel visa requirements
- Bike rental available upon request – please see below

**Tour Grade**

This tour is graded 5/6 moderate (on a scale of 1-10 with 9/10 being extreme).

**2011 Departure Dates**

MAR 05