

Patagonia – To the End of the Earth

Patagonia is a remote, but incredibly beautiful part of the world, at the most southern tip of South America. Set in both Chile and Argentina, this region offers an amazing combination of dirt and tarmac riding through a unique and undisturbed wilderness.

Against a backdrop of turquoise lakes, jagged granite mountains and blue glaciers, we ride through “off the beaten track” places and stay with a local family on their working estancia to enjoy traditional roast lamb. Our Patagonia motorcycle tour enables you to ride to Ushuaia and Tierra del Fuego National Park, where you reach the “End of the Road” – the most southern place on the planet reachable by road.



At a glance

Duration (days): 18
Miles Covered: 2750
Riding difficulty: Difficult
Unpaved Roads: 20%
Culture Shock: Medium

Highlights

This is an 18 day itinerary, covering around 2,750 miles (4,800 kms). The Patagonia Motorcycle Tour starts in Osorno, Chile and finishes in Punta Arenas, Chile.

- The volcanic landscapes, lakes and waterfalls of the Chilean Lake District
- Siete Lagos Route, Lake Nahuelhuapi & picturesque San Carlos de Bariloche
- Carretera Austral through pristine wilderness and stay in log cabins on Rio Baker
- Ruta 40, with a stay on a working estancia and enjoy traditional Patagonian roast lamb
- El Calafate and a ride to the Perito Moreno Glaciar in Los Glaciares National Park
- A stunning ride through Torres del Paine National Park, Look out for rhea and guanaco!
- Cross the Magellan Straits to the Island of Tierra del Fuego
- Ushuaia, “Fin del Mundo” the end of the road in Bahía Lapataia, Tierra del Fuego National Park

Itinerary

This is an 18 day itinerary, covering around 2,500 miles (4,800 kms). It starts in Santiago, Chile and finishes in Punta Arenas, Chile.

Day 1 : Osorno

Fly into the capital of Chile, Santiago and onwards to either Osorno or Puerto Montt. Arrive no later than 1pm and we will collect you from the airport and transfer you to the hotel. Bike Handover and Welcome Evening Meal.

Day 2: Villarrica, Chile (260m)

A beautiful route via Volcan Llaima in the Conguillio National Park – ride on old lavafields! The small town of Villarrica is on the edge of Lake Villarrica and is the shadow of the smoking Villarrica Volcano.

Day 3 & 4: Bariloche, Argentina (249 m). (Up to 65 miles gravel roads, plus border crossing)

We leave Pucon and take a great dirt road border crossing, past Volcan Lanin. Once into Argentina, from San Martin, there's the incredibly picturesque Siete Lagos route. Ride the dirt road Trafal route or take the paved road lakeside to San Carlos de Bariloche. Day off to explore Bariloche.

Day 5: Futaleufu, Chile (205 m) (up to 60 miles gravel road)

More beautiful mountain scenery, swooping bends and perfect tarmac miles. Esquel, which was founded by Welsh immigrants back in 1865 and is twinned with Aberystwyth in Wales. The small Welsh founded town of Trevelin. Cross at Paso Futaleufu.

Day 6: Coyhaique, Chile (270 m) (up to 65 miles gravel road)

Carretera Austral south to Puyuhuapi through the Queulat National Park. Hanging glaciers and waterfalls line your way as you tackle tight switchbacks. Coyhaique is the provincial capital of the area.

Day 7: Puerto Bertrand, Chile (169 m) (up to 110 miles gravel road)

The famous viewpoint just before Cerro Castillo (Castle Hill). Back on to the gravel roads south to Rio Baker and a night in traditional pine cabins, with log burning stoves by the river's edge.

Day 8: Estancia Angostura (312m) (up to 30 miles gravel road)

Southern end of the Lake General Carrera. Cross to Argentina at the border of Chile Chico. The town of Perito Moreno. Ruta 40 south, a very remote route through the Patagonian desert and ending in a working "estancia" (ranch).

Day 9 & 10: El Calafate, Argentina (180 m) (up to 90 miles gravel road)

A wide open dirt road leaves the estancia for the small town of Tres Lagos. El Calafate is a two night stop over with a day to explore the Perito Moreno Glacier in Los Glaciares National Park.

Day 11 & 12: Puerto Natales, Chile (175 m) (up to 45 miles gravel road plus border crossing)

A small section of gravel road leads us to the tiny frontier town of Cerro Castillo, then ride south to Puerto Natales, a coastal town on the shores of the Almirante Montt Gulf. This is our base to ride out to Torres del Paine National Park.

Day 13: Cerro Sombrero, Chile (217 m) (All paved road plus ferry to Tierra del Fuego).

Today we cross the Magellan Straits onto Tierra del Fuego by small ferry. Our night time stop is a family run hotel on the edge of a small oil refinery town. It's in the middle of nowhere!

Day 14 & 15: Ushuaia, Argentina (249m) (up to 75 miles gravel road plus border crossing).

Today we ride to the most southern town in the world reachable by road and get our pictures by the "End of the Road" sign in the Tierra del Fuego National Park.

Day 16: Lago Blanco, Chile (225 m) (up to 65 miles gravel road plus border crossing)

We retrace our tracks north back out over the mountain pass of Paso Garibaldi, then turn west, crossing the Chilean border onto a great dirt road towards the beautiful Lago Blanco.

Day 17: Punta Arenas, Chile (285 m) (up to 65 miles gravel road)

From Lago Blanco we head back to the Magellan Straits ferry. Our final destination is Punta Arenas, meaning "Sandy Point", established in the 1800's by English explorer, John Bryon.

Day 18: Leave Punta Arenas

Book your flight to leave Chile today from Punta Arenas. Take an internal domestic flight to Santiago, for onward international flight back home.

Accommodation

In the main towns, we primarily use good standard 4* hotels, where hotel rooms are equipped with en suite bathrooms, satellite television and wifi.

There is a section of this route that is through remote areas and we stay in accommodation such as pine cabins, a local “estancia” (ranch) and wooden lodges. These types of places sometimes do not have single room accommodation and are small, so that the group takes all the rooms in the accommodation. When we stay in the estancia, we have to use multiple room share – up to five riders per bunk house. Therefore, if you book Single Room Supplement, there are up to 3 nights where this may not be possible and we have already factored this into the price you pay.

These quirky, local places add to the flavour of the Patagonia motorcycle adventure and are appropriate for the location we are in. They are all clean and comfortable, but do not have the level of infrastructure that you get in the towns, so electricity can be supplied by a generator, hot water may only be at certain times and there will not be internet.

Whats Included

You have the benefit of booking your motorcycle tour with a UK tour operator who has in place Financial Payment Protection Insurance with Towergate Stevens & Chapman, so that your money paid to us in advance is protected in accordance with The Package Travel Regulations 1992.

Before you go

- The assurance of booking with a UK tour operator and knowing that your money paid in advance is protected.
- Motorcycle Tour Travel Pack, including Tour Specific Guidance Handbook, SD Card with mapping, downloadable GPS Route and hotel waypoints, hard copy Daily Route Notes, riding and safety tips, information about the hotels, the route and the sights
- Access to the GlobeBusters Team for one to one meeting about preparing for the tour and what to expect.

En Route

- Hotel bed and breakfast accommodation on a shared basis (unless Single Room booked, guaranteed for 14 nights out of 17 nights).
- Standard of accommodation is 2 nights in five star hotels, 10 nights in four star hotels, 4 nights in three star hotels, 2 nights in riverside/lakeside pine cabins and 1 night on working estancia (“ranch”). Note multiple share accommodation is the only option at the Estancia.
- Seven evening meals, including your Welcome & Farewell Meal and five evening meals in locations which are remote. (Drinks are excluded).
- Local overnight hotel parking charges.
- Entrance to Torres del Paine National Park, Los Glaciares National Park, Tierra del Fuego National Park.
- Return ferry crossing to Tierra del Fuego.
- Airport Transfers at the start and the end of the Tour, **provided you arrive on the official start and end dates**.

Support Crew

- GlobeBusters Motorcycle Tour Leader to accompany the Group
- Local support driver / mechanic with a support vehicle, equipped with satellite phone.

Motorcycle Hire

Where you have chosen to rent a motorcycle, this is organised by us with the local motorcycle rental provider, who is the Approved BMW Travel Partner for Chile. Your rental fee includes:

- 16 days of motorcycle rental of the model as chosen by you (or equivalent model)
- Motorcycle is supplied with side cases / panniers.
- International third party motorcycle insurance in Argentina and third party motorcycle insurance in Chile.
- One way charge to return the motorcycle from Punta Arenas back to the original hiring depot

We act as agent for the local provider and on arrival, you are required to sign the local rental agency terms and conditions of hire – please request these, if you require sight in advance. It is mandatory that you provide valid credit card details as a guarantee against damages, with a credit limit of at least US\$5,000. On collection, we advise you to check your rental motorcycle carefully and to take photographs of it, as proof of its condition.

Please note that on rare occasions we may need to substitute your choice of motorcycle for something similar.

If you require any other motorcycle accessories (tank bag, top box, GPS mount, GPS unit etc), please request these on booking and an additional charge may be applicable.

Not Included

- Return passenger airline flights or any other travel costs to get to the start and from the finish point for the tour.
- Personal travel, accident and medical insurance
- Motorcycle insurance or motorcycle breakdown recovery insurance
- Entrance fees to sights and parks, optional excursions or activities, (except where stated)
- Lunches, snacks or evening meals (except where stated). Any meals whilst on board ferries.
- Personal spending money, tips, souvenirs or other extras.
- Personal documentation (eg visas, passport), vaccinations, personal taxes, border crossing fees.
- Fuel, oil & other motorcycle consumables, toll road fees, traffic fines.
- Cost of parts, labour or other indirect costs relating to the repair of any damage to your motorcycle or a rental motorcycle
- We do not supply riding gear; you must bring your own helmet, jacket, trousers and gloves.
- Any other item not specifically stated as included in the price.

Flights

For clarity, we do **not include** your passenger flights. Once we have confirmed that this tour is a guaranteed departure, it is your responsibility to organise your own flights to and from the destination. You need to book an outward flight to our start point, Osorno or Puerto Montt, to arrive no later than around 1pm on 24 January 2020. The earliest leave date is any time on 10 February 2020 from the town of Punta Arenas.

Your flight route will normally be an international flight to/from Santiago (Chile's capital) and then via [LATAM](#) or [Sky Airlines](#) from Punta Arenas. **Only book your flights once we have confirmed that your tour is a guaranteed departure. We do not refund flight costs if you have booked flights for a tour that has not been notified as a guaranteed departure.**

Should you wish to arrive before the official date or stay after the official end date, please simply request extra nights at the time of booking and we can make the reservation at our group hotel.

Please also refer to our [terms and conditions](#).

Useful Info

What riding experience do I need?

This route includes approximately 780 miles of gravel road through Patagonia on the Carretera Austral and Ruta 40. Ruta 40 can be subject to strong cross winds. There can be up to 200 miles between stops. We recommend this Tour for riders who have some experience of riding on unpaved surfaces, such as gravel or dirt. Having said that, this Tour has been successfully completed by many competent road riders, taking a steady pace and without any off road experience. This is not a technical ride. All roads used are public highways and shown on maps. Gravel roads are normally well maintained, but you do need to be aware of possible strong cross winds on Ruta 40 and deeper gravel on bends. We do recommend that you take an off road course, such as [Off Road Skills](#) or for one to one training, go to [Adventure Bike Training](#).



Do I have to ride in a group?

No! We do not make you ride in convoy. We offer you the freedom to decide how you would like to ride. We give you a road book, GPS co-ordinates and hotel information. You can use this to self-navigate. If you prefer to ride with our Motorcycle Leader, then you can do this.

What is the average group size?

Our groups are normally between 8 – 12 riders (some riders will have passengers).

Is this ride suitable for a passenger?

We have had other riders successfully complete this ride with a pillion passenger. Your passenger needs to also be an experienced tourer.

Is there a support vehicle?

Yes, this tour operates with a local [support vehicle](#) and driver. You are able to put luggage in the van, but it must be packed suitably in soft waterproof and dustproof bags. Hard suitcases are not appropriate. The support vehicle has the capacity to carry two bikes and two passengers. Space in the support vehicle is reserved for any riders or passengers who are ill / injured, who will always take priority.

What will the weather be like?

As we are in the Southern Hemisphere, November is the equivalent of early summer. However, we travel a long way south and so even in summertime, the weather can be unpredictable. It is likely that you will experience some rain, especially on the Carretera Austral, due to its temperate climate. You must be prepared for a range of weather.

Tell me about the motorcycle rental

Riders must be age 21 years and older, with a valid, full motorcycle licence. We work with the local motorcycle rental provide that is BMW Approved. Motorcycles are provided with side panniers. We act as an agent for the local provider. You will need to sign the local terms and conditions of rental (a copy of which you may request from us in advance) and provide a credit card as a guarantee in case of damage, with at least US\$5,000 credit limit available. Bikes are provided with International Third Party Cover. Additional insurance may be purchased to

cover damage or loss of the bike, with an excess of between US\$2,500 and US\$5,000 depending on the model of motorcycle.

What about flights?

We do not include your passenger flights in our tour price. Once we have confirmed the tour as a guaranteed departure, you need to organise your own flights to and from the destination. You should book an outward flight to our start point, Osorno or Puerto Montt to arrive no later than around 1pm on 24 January 2020. The earliest leave date is any time on 10 February 2020 from the town of Punta Arenas. Your flight route will normally be an international flight to Santiago (Chile's capital) and then via [LATAM](#) or [Sky Airlines](#) from Punta Arenas.

What documents do I need?

You will need your original documents as follows: Passport, Driving Licence, International Driving Permit. In addition you must have travel/medical insurance.

UK / EU / USA Citizens do not normally require a visa for Chile or Argentina. As visa requirements are dependent on your nationality and can be complex, with constantly changing requirements, we would direct you to our appointed visa agency for advice. www.thevisamachine.com

Available Dates & Prices

Date	Rider Shared Room	Single Supplement	Passenger Shared Room	Bike Rental
Jan 24 – Feb 10, 2020	£4,200	£1,400	£3,400	BMW R 1200 GS: £3,295 BMW F 800 GS: £2,895 BMW F 700 GS: £2,695