

## PATAGONIA EXPRESS



**Lifebound Tours** offers an exclusively Patagonian adventure. We will explore both Chilean and Argentinian Patagonia by train, motor coach, and boat. From Araucaria forests to iceberg-filled lagoons this tour promises unsurpassed mountain scenery, uninhabited miles of arid steppes, and uncharted Pacific fjords. We will sail in a dozen bodies of water, visit seven National Parks, and enjoy summertime in five festive communities. Those desiring daily walks will find ample hiking time while those who prefer savoring the scenery from our secluded lodges may do so without lifting a leg.

Our journey begins by boarding a small yacht for four days as we sail the Chilean fjords to the glorious San Rafael Glacier and back. Turning south we will travel by motor coach along classic Lake Carrera with its many wild flowers and forests crossing into Argentine Patagonia. After a couple days in the shadow of the Fitz Roy massif. And a visit to the Cave of the Hands we'll proceed north across the steppes to Esquel where we will visit the Los Alerces National Park with its 2600-year-old trees. Next we will board Theroux's 'Old Patagonian Express' for a spin and from there we will enter popular Bariloche for a couple wonderful days before taking the fabled Andean lake crossing to Puerto Varas, Chile. Finally we will tour the gorgeous Volcano and Lake District and catch the northbound train through Chile's heartland to Santiago and our flight home. Come experience gorgeous early summer scenery, tons of great fresh food, and inter-action with some of the nicest people in the world.

Join **Lifebound Tours** (doing business since 1981) for summer in Patagonia. This 22-day, fully-escorted expedition costs only \$4550 including air fare from North America, all meals, hotels, and tours. Call Rick at (760) 742-3455 or write <lifebound@hotmail.com> or PO Box 700, Fallbrook CA 92088, and reserve your berth today!

### **Specifics**

**Group size: 12-16 (first come, first served)**

**Tour conductor: Rick Marin [CST# 2057883-40]**

**Required documents: Valid Passport**

**Contingencies: some dirt roads; no high altitudes**

**Payment schedule:**

**Reservation: \$250 (non-refundable)**

**4 months prior to departure: \$2000**

**2 months prior to departure: remainder**

**Reserve before Sep. 5, 2008 and receive a \$150 discount**

**Bring a friend and receive a \$250 discount**

**Single room (if desired) supplement: \$700**

**Pre-trip cancellation fee: \$750 (insurance available)**

**Departure: January 5, 2009**

## Daily Highlights

Day            Activity

- 1 M** Fly south to Santiago, Chile and connect to Balmaceda in the heart of Patagonia.
- 2 T** Board our yacht at Puerto Chacabuco for a four-day cruise among granite mountains, splashing waterfalls, and quiet lagoons.
- 3 W** Navigate through hidden fjords and inlets, observing various forms of marine wildlife.
- 4 T** Enter the San Rafael Glacier Sanctuary to be surrounded by icebergs of every hue and shape.
- 5 F** Revisit the Lagoon before trying your hand at fly fishing & sailing secret channels to the Guaitecas.
- 6 S** Bid an evening farewell to the fabulous fjords after exploring green islands & bubbling hot springs.
- 7 S** Motor south to Lake Carrera photographing wild flowers & turquoise lakes on the Austral Hiway.
- 8 M** Take the mountain route east stopping for excursions into the forests, lakes, & streams before entering the steppes of Argentina heading south.
- 9 T** Follow the north shore of Lake Viedma to El Chaltén for views of the Fitz Roy Massif & condors.
- 10 W** Walk the trails, take the day-boat, or relax at our lodge while surrounded by windswept lakes, calving glaciers, granite needles, & world-class climbers.
- 11 T** Turn north past Tres Lagos across the steppes on desolate Argentine Hwy 40 to the Cave of Hands.
- 12 F** Continue north to see earth's oldest living trees in glorious Los Alerces National Park.
- 13 S** Explore the wonders of Los Alerces by boat and by foot starting at our lakeside lodge.
- 14 S** Venture north for a ride on the 'Old Patagonian Express' and an evening in Bariloche.
- 15 M** Grasp the sky chair for a view from the top of Cerro Campanario, visit a chocolate factory, and partake of the culture in Bavarian Bariloche.
- 16 T** Take the fabled 'Andean Lake Crossing' past the Elfin Forest, colorful lakes, & spectacular, snowy volcanoes for a romantic night at Peulla Lodge.
- 17 W** Visit charming Valdivia near the Pacific with its German influence & popular waterfront.
- 18 T** Navigate the rivers to the Andwante Wildlife Sanctuary, ancient Spanish forts, and pirate lairs.
- 19 F** Explore the Triful-Triful Valley and photo-graph the changing fumarole patterns on Llaima Volcano before settling down in tree cabins.
- 20 S** Relax in the Conguillío National Forest by the lake, on a trail, or on a boat.
- 21 S** Board the Northbound train from Chillan to Santiago and our night flight home.
- 22 M** Arrive home filled with visions of racing Rheas, bucking broncos, tumbling waterfalls, mouth-watering cherries, towering peaks, & the haunting hands.