AYSEN PATAGONIA: PURE WILDERNESS

Duration: 6 days / 5 nights

Interest: Adventure & Culture

Discover the untouched and remote beauty of the Aysen region. Explore pristine landscapes and diverse wildlife along the **Route of the Parks of Patagonia**. Hike through ancient lenga and coihue forests in Cerro Castillo National Park, paddle kayaks in the Marble Caves, and visit the vast valleys of the Patagonian steppe of Patagonia National Park, a landscape that is now recovering from historic overgrazing and stands as one of Chile's most significant ecosystem restoration stories.
Immerse yourself in the unique beauty of the region, where every moment promises a new discovery.

Activities: Wildlife, National Parks, Kayak, Hiking

Difficulty: Medium

Itinerary:

Day 1: Welcome to Aysen Region

Arrive at Balmaceda Airport and enjoy a scenic one-hour transfer to the village of Cerro Castillo. Spend the rest of the day exploring the surroundings.

Dinner included.

Overnight at a local Bed & Breakfast: La Casona, in Cerro Castillo.

Day 2: Cerro Castillo National Park

Today we will hike through a pristine southern forest with stunning views of **Cerro Castillo National Park**, part of the Route of the Parks of Patagonia.

The impressive Cerro Castillo massif is a perfect setting for wildlife observation, with chances to spot the endangered Huemul (South Andean deer).

Breakfast, Box Lunch, and Dinner included.

Overnight at La Casona in Cerro Castillo.

Day 3: Marble Caves Kayak

Today we will drive south to Puerto Tranquilo and explore the marble caves in Lake General Carrera, **the largest lake of Patagonia**.

The marble caves can be enjoyed either on a boat ride or by kayaking through the caves, offering a closer look at their striking formations and the vibrant colors reflected in the water.

Our accommodation is on the banks of Chile's largest river, the mighty **Rio Baker**, well known to fly fishers.

Breakfast, Box Lunch and Dinner included.

Overnight at BordeBaker Lodge.

Day 4: Patagonia National Park

Today you'll witness the powerful embrace of the **Baker and Nef rivers**, where glacial milky torrents meet deep turquoise waters in a spectacular 10-meter waterfall.

We will continue south to the spectacular **Patagonia National Park,** a hidden gem along the Route of the Parks, known for offering some of the **most diverse landscapes in Patagonia**.

Patagonia National Park was created through the conservation efforts of Douglas Tompkins, Kristine Tompkins and Rewilding Chile Foundation, whose vision helped protect and restore vast areas of Patagonian wilderness in southern Chile.

Breakfast, Box Lunch and Dinner included.

Overnight at BordeBaker Lodge.

Day 5: Patagonia National Park

A new day of exploration, enjoying some of the **spectacular trails** available to explore the park.

From the ever-present snow-capped peaks of the Northern Ice Field to the vast Patagonian steppe, the park also features a remarkable transition zone, from the evergreen species of the temperate rainforest to the deciduous sub-Antarctic Magellanic forest.

Breakfast, Box Lunch and Dinner included.

Overnight at BordeBaker Lodge.

Day 6: Drive north to Balmaceda or Coyhaique

Transfer back to Balmaceda Airport or Coyhaique, along the Carretera Austral.

Breakfast included.

What's Included

- **Accommodations:** 5 nights in hand-picked, locally-owned Boutique Hotels.
- **Meals:** All meals included as specified. *Custom options (Vegetarian, Vegan, Gluten-free) are available upon request.*
- **Transportation:** Private terrestrial transport with a guaranteed window seat for optimal wildlife viewing.
- **Expert Leadership:** Private Professional Naturalist Guide/Driver, certified as an International Wilderness First Responder.
- **Group Size:** Minimum of two guests.

Not included:

- International and Domestic flights, tips, insurance, and any other item not specified.

Climate

The climate in Aysén is oceanic and unpredictable. Expect "four seasons in one day" and always be prepared for a mix of sun, wind, and rain.

Season:

- **Spring:** Sept – Nov. 5°C - 15°C (41°F - 59°F). Windy with moderate rain
- **Summer:** Dec - Feb. 10°C - 22°C (50°F - 72°F). Longest days and the driest, warmest period
- **Autumn**: March - May. 2°C - 12°C (36°F - 54°F). Low wind, peak fall colors, and crisp air.

What to Pack:

To handle Aysén's microclimates, we recommend the 3-Layer System:

- Base Layer: Moisture-wicking thermal (Merino wool is best).
- Mid Layer: Fleece or a light down jacket for insulation.
- Shell Layer: A high-quality waterproof & windproof jacket.

Must-haves: Waterproof trekking boots, high-SPF sunscreen, and dry bags/covers for binoculars and camera gear.