



# SOUTHERN PATAGONIAN ICE FIELD

Los Glaciares National Park



# ICE FIELD

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2023

8 days

**The Southern Patagonian Ice Field is the third largest in the world, after Antarctica and Greenland, and the largest continental not polar.**

**It goes from north to south along 350 km. From the ice field comes off a total of 49 glaciers, such as: Upsala (902 km<sup>2</sup>), Marconi, Viedma (978km<sup>2</sup>) and Perito Moreno (258 km<sup>2</sup>) in Argentina; Pío XI, O'Higgins and Gray in Chile.**

**This expedition takes place among the most overwhelming and inaccessible ice landscapes, snow and rocks, unique in the world.**

**A virgin snow plain surrounded by the lesser-known faces of the highest peaks in Patagonia. Walking across the Fitz Roy and Torre hills, starting through 'Paso del Viento'.**

**A 90km journey that begins in the Marconi Glacier, entering this ice world where only few people have been.**





## **ABOUT THE EXPEDITION**

- **7 to 8 days with extra day due to bad weather.**
- **6-7 camp nights (Paso Marconi - Paso del Viento)**
- **Backpack weight: 20-25 kg.**
- **Trek difficult: Hard. Semi-technical or technical terrain, Slopes around 600-1500m, walking between 6-10 hours a day**
- **From 2 to 8 people.**

## **AVAILABLE DATES**

- **OCTOBER and NOVEMBER 2022**
- **FEBRUARY and MARCH 2023**

**NO previous experience required in mountaineering, technique with the use of crampons and rackets.**

**You MUST BE in good physical condition to face long days of walks, slopes and carry heavy backpacks.**

**Porters can be hire.**



- **Waterproof Jacket with Hood (Gore-Tex or equivalent)**
- **Waterproof Pants (Gore-Tex or equivalent)**
- **2 Sets of Base Layer (Top and Bottom)**
- **Soft Shell or Fleece Top**
- **Hiking Pants**
- **Synthetic Insulation Jacket (i.e. Marmot Takhin Jacket)**
- **3 Pairs of Synthetic Socks**
- **Gloves for hiking- Windstopper or similar**
- **Gloves with Shell- Fleece Inners with Waterproof Shell**
- **Technical Hiking Boots - (La Sportiva Nepal Top or similar)**
- **Sandals (for river crossing)**
- **Gaitors**
- **Hat**
- **Sun Hat**
- **Buff**
- **Trekking Poles**
- **Backpack - 40-60lbs (big enough for extra clothing, water and day's food)**
- **Synthetic Sleeping Bag -10C - (i.e. Marmot Montana 4)**
- **Inflatable Sleeping Mattress (i.e. Thermo-a-Rest)**
- **Sun Glasses**
- **Head Lamp**
- **1lt. Water Bottle**
- **Sun Cream**
- **Snowshoes**

# GEAR LIST

A photograph of two mountaineers in winter gear standing in a snowy environment. The person on the left is wearing a red jacket and sunglasses, while the person on the right is wearing a dark jacket and a blue face mask. They are both wearing backpacks and appear to be preparing for a climb.

# ITINERARY

## **DAY 1: EI CHALTÉN – LA PLAYITA CAMP**

We will begin by meeting in the morning at our office in El Chaltén and a transfer will take us to the Río Eléctrico bridge, 24 km from the town, the starting point of the expedition.

We will undertake a 2-hour walk along a marked path between tall lenga forests, until we reach a small inhabited post called Piedra del Fraile.

This will be the last vestige of civilization that we will see for a few days. We will leave the marked path to enter for 5 hours in a colossal glacial valley with unique views of the northwest faces of Fitz Roy. We will ford the Polone River, we will border the south bank of the Eléctrico River and, finally, we will arrive at La Playita camp to finish this first day of the expedition.

**Full board**

**Duration: 7 hours**

**Distance to travel: 12 km**

**Slope: 80m**

# ITINERARY

- **DAY 2: LA PLAYITA CAMP- GORRA BLANCA REFUGE**

This day is crucial for the expedition, because we'll go to the Marconi Glacier, one of the accesses to the Ice Field. There, the prevailing winds from the west tend to hit hard and their intensity can even impede the passage, in which case we'll must wait for the right conditions. Therefore, we'll wake up at first light and, after a good breakfast and if the weather allows it, we'll start the trek. In approximately 1 hour we'll be at the Marconi Glacier and feel the experience of walking the ice with crampons. As we go the slope will become more ascending, so we will put on harnesses and rope ourselves. Behind us, the majestic hills Pier Giorgio and Fitz Roy, and Aguja Polone will follow our steps. Once the slope is finished, the indescribable Ice Field will open up to our eyes, bordered by the Kolliker, Gaea, Mariano Moreno and Lautaro Volcano ridges. In the vicinity of the pass we will set up camp and enjoy the sunset, contemplating the silhouette of the Fitz Roy, Pier Giorgo and Gorra Blanca hills silhouetted against a sky of clouds of shapes and colors that can only be seen in that corner of Patagonia.

**Full board**

**Duration: 8 -9 hours**





# ITINERARY

- **DAY 3: GORRA BLANCA- CIRCO DE LOS ALTARES**

Next day, both guides and assistants will start early in the morning sharing the general load on the sleds, to lighten the backpacks. We'll put on our snowshoes and start the walk. In a short time we'll be able to appreciate the ice mushrooms on the Cordón Marconi to our left, the Volcán Lautaro and the Cordón Mariano Moreno to the right and the Ice Field under our feet. After approximately 5 hours walking, we'll arrive at the Circo de los Altares, where you can admire the incredible west face of the Torre, Egger and Standhart hills. There we'll build snow walls as protection from the wind, set up the tents with a view of Cerro Torre and get ready to eat, hydrate and enjoy one of the most magical places on earth.

**Full board**

**Duration: 6-7 hours**

**Distance to travel: 12 km**

**Elevation: 50m uphill; 100m downhill**





# ITINERARY

- **DAY 4: CIRCO DE LOS ALTARES – LAGUNA FERRARI**

On the morning of the 4th day we will break camp and continue in south direction, taking advantage with our sleds and snowshoes the slight descent of the terrain.

We'll leave the circus behind and after a few hours it will start to become apparent ice cracks. We'll walk another 1 hour, take off our snowshoes and reload the sleds to head for the snowless glacier that will take us to get on dry land. From there we'll go to Laguna Ferrari, where we will set camp. Although, if the weather conditions allow it, we can continue to the Paso del Viento Refuge to spend the night there.

**Full board**

**Duration: 8 hours**

**Distance to travel: 14 km**

**Elevation: 250m uphill; 250m downhill**



# ITINERARIO

- **DAY 5: LAGUNA FERRARI –LAGUNA TORO**

As in the entire journey, in the morning, calm and still enjoying the incomparable view of the Viedma Glacier, we will head towards the Paso del Viento. After 300m of unevenness we'll cross it and find a change of landscape: the extremely white and enormous Inferior and Superior Tunnel glaciers, which come down from the slopes and will accompany us in the 800 m of descent that we will have ahead. After a last walk through the Túnel Glacier, the crossing of the Túnel River awaits us, which will be done by a zip line or wading through the waters, depending on the on the guide's decision. After crossing the river, and after a short walk of 30 minutes we'll arrive at the Laguna Toro camp, where a green forest will surprise us again.\*

\* Another itinerary is to continue towards Paso Huemul and continue towards Bahía Túnel.

**Full board**

**Duration: 6-7 hours**

**Slope: 300m ascent; 800m downhill**

# ITINERARY

- **DAY 6: LAGUNA TORO – EL CHALTÉN**

After breakfast, in the morning we will undertake the final walk to the town along a path that crosses the Loma del Pliegue Tumbado, after having added to our life experience a unique adventure in the world.

\*Possible change of itinerary: returning through Bahía Tunel

**Breakfast and lunch**

**Duration: 6 hours**

**Slope: 450m ascent; 700m downhill**

- **DAY 7 and 8: EXTRA DAY**

This day is considered to be used in case of waiting due to bad weather or if necessary within the expedition. Its use or not, is at the sole discretion of the guide.

\*It is important to consider that the weather in El Chaltén area is very unstable. This expedition has 2 extra days speculated in case of bad weather to give a greater chance to success of the journey.



# WHAT'S INCLUDED

- **Mountain guide.**
- **Assistant: 1 every 3 passengers.**
- **Technical equipment for glacier: Crampons, harnesses, ropes, sledge, etc.**
- **4 season tents and kitchen sets.**
- **Meals during the trek (breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner).**
- **VHF radio.**
- **Transfer El Chaltén – Electric River.**
- **First aid kit.**
- **Personal accident insurance.**
- **GPS.**
- **SPOT. Satellite Tracker**



# WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

- **Transfer to and from El Calafate.**
- **Personal equipment (such as boots, backpacks, etc.).**  
Part of this can be rented.
- **Additional porters.**
- **Unspecified services in the program.**
- **Tips.**



# RATES & CONDITIONS

**You must previously deposit 25% of the total value to make your place reservation effective (no refunds). Total cancellation of the fee will be made at meeting point with our guides. All programs must be complete paid 30 days prior to departure date. Once the deposit payment has been made, we will send a registration form to complete and return by email before the start date of the program. There will be no refund if you abandon the expedition. Extra charges caused by abandonment of expedition will be borne by the customer.**

## **PROMOTIONAL RATE**

## **EXPEDITION LAUNCH OFFER**

----- **u\$d 1.990 per person**



### **CONTACT:**

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