BACKPACKING PATAGONIA:  
CERRO HUEMUL CIRCUIT

October 7 – 15

Duration: 9 Days / 8 nights

(Pre-Summit Adventure )

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Huemul Circuit ranks as one of Patagonia’s most demanding treks
- Combine trekking along the conventional trails of National Park Los Glaciares, with trekking in a remote area of the park.
- It is backpacking – carrying everything you need for the trip on your back over sometimes rough, steep, and uneven terrain.
- Wilderness camping
- We will visit the most famous sights in the area: Laguna de los 3 & Laguna Torre
- Staying at Laguna Condor – Mountain Hut – unique accommodation to relax before trek!
- Majestic Views along the Cerro Huemul Circuit

DIFFICULTY: CHALLENGING (5)

Very physically fit; 5-8 hours trekking/day; able to carry a heavy backpack over uneven terrain multiple days in a row

In this level, it is common to find areas that require many hours hiking off-trail and across all kinds of terrain (scree, rocky, muddy, sometimes at steep angles). Moraines, bushes, bogs, scree slopes, glacier crossing on their ablation areas, Passes, river wading, snow and any other mountainous area. Hikers will carry backpacks, campsites are very rustic and remote, with no facilities. This is the True Patagonia!

Requires backpacking experience  (carrying 40-45 lbs/18-20 kgs backpack including a portion of group gear; sections of steep trail and scree, river crossings by zip-line and/or wading).

- Long walks of 6 to 10 hours.
- The clients have to carry their own equipment, and part of the general equipment (approx 20 kilos each participant). Personal porters can be arranged for an extra cost.

- Moderate to large elevation gain and loss in altitude (400 to 1000 mts)/(1312 to 3280 ft)
- Lodging in Mountain Hut / Camps
- Physically very demanding.
- Previous technical mountaineering experience not required.
- Previous experience of trekking and camping is required.
- We recommend aerobic training before the trip.

ITINERARY

Day 1: 7th October | El Calafate / El Chalten / Laguna Condor Mountain Hut
Reception at El Calafate Airport, Group transfer to El Chalten, with English speaking guide. Transfer will pick up participants arriving with same flight, at El Calafate Airport. In case of different arrival times or pick up points, please ask for private transfers with extra cost.

On arrival in El Chalten, transfer to our Laguna Condor Mountain Hut set on the banks of Río De Las Vueltas north of town. There are great views of Monte Fitz Roy’s north face from here.

There will be a trip briefing before dinner to explain the adventures that await us in the days ahead.

Services:

- Group transfer El Calafate Airport / El Chalten / Laguna Condor
- Lunch
- Welcome Dinner (Fixed 3 Course Meal – no beverages)

Day 2: 8th October | Full Day Laguna de los 3
After breakfast, a short drive brings us to the trailhead. We ascend gradually all morning along the Río Blanco to the base camp of the same name. This is the camp where climbers wait for a break in the weather when attempting the always-difficult ascents of the granite monolith named after Darwin’s boat captain. We ascend more steeply to Laguna De Los Tres where we will have close-up views of several of the routes used to climb Fitz Roy, weather permitting. We will enjoy our box lunch and then in the afternoon go to our camp.
Explorando la Patagonia desde 1985

info@fitzroyexpediciones.com.ar
Av San Martín 56 | El Chaltén (9301) Santa Cruz | Argentina

Services:
Box Lunch
Dinner
Accommodation: Double Tents at Poincenot Camp.
Distance: 13 kms/8 mi (6 hours)
Elevation Gain: 300 mts/984 ft

Day 3: 9th October | Trek to Laguna Torre
After a nice breakfast, we will start our trek to Torre Lake, We will walk through the trail of Lake Madre and Hija until reaching camp Thorwood. During this trek, we will be able to enjoy several different panoramic spots that will allow appreciating several well-known mounts such as Mt. Solo, Adela Cordon and stunning Mount Torre and take as many interesting pictures as we want.

Services:
Full Board
Accommodation: Double Tents at Thorwood Camp.
Distance: 8 kms/4 mi (3 hours)
Elevation Gain: 200 mts/656 ft

Day 4: 10th October | Paso de las Agachonas
After breakfast, we again cross the river by Tyrolean traverse and begin the long ascent to Paso De Las Agachonas. As we go higher, the views of the surrounding peaks get ever more dramatic. Once across the pass we descend into the Rio Tuni Valley, with occasional views of tomorrow’s destination, El Paso Del Viento, Windy Pass. Upon reaching Rio Tuniel, we follow it west to our camp just below Laguna Toro. This will be our camp for tonight, nicely protected in a small beech grove near tree line.

Services:
Full Board
Accommodation: Double Tents at Laguna Toro Camp.
Distance: 20 kms/12 mi (7 hours)
Elevation Gain: 600 mts/1968 ft

Day 5: 11th October | Paso del Viento
Today is the longest and hardest day of our trip, but if the weather cooperates with clear skies, you will be treated to one of the most unforgettable experiences of your outdoor life. We begin with a crossing (by wading or Tyrolean traverse) of the river, then begin the long ascent (2700’) to Windy Pass. Early on there is a short stretch of the Tunnel Glacier to cross, followed by the steepest terrain we’ve yet encountered. We expect to get to the pass by midday, but do not expect to eat lunch here. It is usually windy enough that even taking photographs can be difficult. You are free to stay and enjoy the views of the Ice Field as long as you like (or can endure the wind!). Rising in the middle of the Ice Field is a range of mountains, some of which have no names and have never had the impression of a human foot. You are looking at one of the least seen and visited places outside of the polar regions, and one of the most breathtakingly beautiful as well. We will traverse down a scree to our campsite near “Refugio Viedma” (Viedma’s Hut), settled in a lateral moraine of Viedma Glacier and the Ice Field. Our Camp is set up around the Hut. We'll have a good rest and wait for a great dinner.

Services:
Full Board
Accommodation: Double Tents at Paso del Viento Camp.
Distance: 12 kms/7mi (8 hrs)
Elevation Gain: 900 mts/2952 ft

Day 6: 12th October | Paso Huemul
After breakfast, we'll start a full-day trekking toward the Paso Huemul, a lonely part area of the National Park around Cerro Huemul. The camp is just over the pass, sheltered by a beautiful Lenga forest, with gorgeous views of Viedma Glacier as it meets Viedma Lake. Only five minutes from camp, there are “Condoreras” (a set of condor nests), clinging from ledges on rock walls. If we are lucky, we will see condors flying over our heads.

Services:
Full Board
Accommodation: Double Tents at Paso Huemul Camp.
Distance: 18 kms/11mi (7 hrs)
Elevation Gain: 600 mts/1968 ft

Day 7: 13th October | Lake Viedma / Return To El Chaltén
We'll start our final day, hiking down a steep descent to Lake Viedma and Cabo de Hornos Bay. We'll be picked up by our boat and enjoy a 30 minutes sail up to “Bahia Tuniel”. A transfer will take us back to El Chaltén, where will finish our breathtaking experience.

Services:
Full Board
Accommodation: Twin Room at Hosteria El Puma
Distance: 9 kms/5 mi (3 hrs)
**Elevation Gain: 50 mts/164ft**

**Day 8: 14th October | Half Day Viedma Trek / El Calafate**

In the morning, a transfer will pick us up from the hotel to drive us to Bahía Tunel, (Tunnel Bay) 15 km from town.

During this excursion, you will learn the history of the largest glacier in Argentina and its behavior over the past 10 years, during which it has shown a constant and drastic retreat. You will witness the noticeable erosion of the ice over the rocks and the visible results. You will capture extraordinary views of the glacier from different points, on a journey along natural trails. This is such an ideal excursion to share with family and friends.

Approximately after a 1-hour navigation, during which you will observe large icebergs, you will disembark on a rocky promontory area to start trekking. The trekking on the promontory area will allow you to appreciate the history of the glaciations, the movement of large ice blocks smoothing the rocks, and to acknowledge nature as the main modeler of the landscape that you enjoy today. This promontory area is a terrain rarely seen and it is the ideal point for the Glaciology talks offered by our guides.

During this journey, you will approach the glacier to observe it from different heights and natural viewpoints, appreciating its immensity and the play of colors.

In the afternoon, we will sail back to Bahía Tunel, where a transfer will be waiting for us to take us to El Calafate, where we will be arriving late in the evening, for dinner.

**Services:**

- Viedma Trek in regular service
- Accommodation: Twin Room at Hotel El Quijote
- Farewell Dinner

**Day 9: 15th October | El Calafate / Departure**

After breakfast, an early transfer will take us to El Calafate Airport to take our flights to Salta.

**Included Services:**

- Meals according to itinerary.
- Accommodation according to itinerary
- Transfer El Calafate Airport / El Chaltén // El Calafate Airport in private service. Group transfer, to be provided to participants arriving in same flight. Please ask for private / additional transfers, for an extra cost.

**NOT Included:**

- Personal Equipment. (Please check the required equipment in this file).
- Sleeping pad / Sleeping mat.
- Drinks in restaurants, and extra drinks.
- Personal expenses (tips, laundry, phone, etc)
- Any other service not mentioned as included in this document.
- Domestic Flights.

**Note:**

In El Chaltén you can rent mountain gear. Please confirm in advance.

We recommend for you to avoid natural fibers like cotton or wool because once they are wet they are difficult to dry.

**GETTING READY**

- Group Size: Minimum 4 / Maximum 12 participants
- Amount of Hosted Delegates (100% FOC) in this departure: 4
- Price per person: U$D. 1890.-
- Methods of Payment: Credit Card (Visa or Master Card) / Wire Transfer
- Booking Method: On Request, we will send a Booking Form to be filled by Participants.
- Accommodation Provided: Double (Twin) Basis, to share with a colleague of same gender. Single accommodation possible only in some accommodations, please ask for price and availability.
Packing List

Weather: The weather in Patagonia is notorious for high winds and extreme variability. Days can range from sunny with temperatures in the mid-60s (15°C) in October to rain, hail, and occasionally even snow. Nighttime temperatures often drop down into the 30s and 40s (0-5°C). The wind-chill factor can sometimes make the ambient temperature feel much colder. Please come prepared for all possibilities and equipped with good quality rain and wind gear.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Luggage:</th>
<th>Assorted Personal Items:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Medium to large duffle or rolling soft-sided luggage</td>
<td>□ Trekking poles (collapsible)</td>
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<td>□ Luggage locks</td>
<td>□ Sleeping Bag (15-20°F/−5-10°C) with compression stuff sack</td>
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<td>□ 60-65 L backpack</td>
<td>□ Insulating mattress (compact, lightweight; Therm-a-Rest ideal)</td>
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<td>□ Waterproof pack cover or garbage bag to line pack</td>
<td>□ Water bottles (2 1-Liter or 2L hydration bladder)</td>
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<td>□ Dry sacs or plastic bags</td>
<td>□ Headlamp with batteries (&amp; extra batteries)</td>
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<td>□ Sunscreen and Lip balm with SPF</td>
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<td>□ Sun hat</td>
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<td>□ Wool or fleece hat</td>
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<td>□ Neck warmer or buff</td>
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<td></td>
<td>□ Gloves/mittens</td>
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<td></td>
<td>□ Sunglasses with UV filter</td>
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<td>□ Personal hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrush, quick drying travel towel, etc)</td>
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<td>□ Toilet Kit: Toilet paper, Ziplock bags (at least one for clean TP, one for dirty TP), wet wipes, hand sanitizer (You must pack out all toilet paper.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>□ Personal first aid kit, medications, blister kit</td>
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<td>□ Bandana</td>
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<td>□ Pocket knife</td>
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<td>□ Camera/memory cards/battery</td>
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<td>□ Packing cubes/stuff sacks</td>
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<td>□ Gaiters</td>
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<td>□ Optional:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>□ Earplugs and eye shade</td>
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<td></td>
<td>□ Binoculars</td>
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<td>□ Water purification (filter or tablets)</td>
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Footwear:

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<tr>
<th>Luggage:</th>
<th>Assorted Personal Items:</th>
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<tr>
<td>□ Waterproof trekking boots with rugged sole</td>
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<td>□ Hiking socks, synthetic or wool</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Light shoes (sneakers or water sandals)</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Water crossing/camp shoes</td>
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Note: Water is potable without filtration/purification in Southern Patagonia. Please bring your own water filter/Steripen or purification tablets if you don’t want to drink the water untreated.
Sleeping bags/pads are available for rent in El Chaltén. Book early for best availability.
RESERVATION AND CANCELLATION CONDITIONS

a) Reference to meteorology:

- It is well known that meteorology in the area is unpredictable presenting itself in some outings situations where the weather changes in few hours having the guide to suspend the activity when the wait in the camp of the electric lake is of several days.
- In case any activity must be cancelled or changed due to meteorology, Fitz Roy Expeditions will provide alternative activity within similar price/services. No refund will be given for excursions not being able to perform due to weather conditions.

b) Reference to the physical condition of the participants:

In the case that the physical condition of a participant is very low in comparison with the rest of the Group and places a threat in the success and safety of the whole expedition, it will be the guide who will determine if the passenger must be accompanied by an assistant and return to El Chalten abandoning the Expedition where an alternative program will be prepared for him in accordance with the weather conditions and aptitudes of the same.

In none of the cases will there be a refund of what has been paid for the expedition. Alternative services will be given as long as it doesn’t incur in extra cost for Fitz Roy Expeditions. Any extra expense is the responsibility of the client.
PASO DEL VIENTO VIEWPOINT

HUEMUL CIRCUIT
VIEWPOINT FROM PASO HUEMUL
– VIEDMA GLACIER