

PATAGONIA 2012

FITZ ROY CIRCUMNAVIGATION : JANUARY 15-26, 2012



Trekking in the Fitz Roy region of Patagonia in Southern Argentina offers some of the most spectacular adventure travel on the planet. Our trip will take us away from the more common trails and paths, as we enjoy a true wilderness experience while exploring the Cerro Torre Valley and completely circumnavigating the Fitz Roy Massif.

The highlights of this trip are the breathtaking granite monoliths jutting out of the Patagonian Plateau, an amazing series of glaciated towers and rugged horns, some with faces rising more than 6,000 vertical feet from the plateau below. These rock spires are among the most famous destinations for the world's most accomplished alpinists. We will cross panoramic mountain passes alongside the tremendous Southern Patagonian Icefield, hike across windswept plains and ascend through dwarf beech (Lenga) forests, winding past glacier fed turquoise lakes to the base of the towering vertical walls. Navigating across glaciers, rappelling down rock slopes, and crossing rivers via Tyrolean traverses are all part of the adventure, en route to camps located almost directly under the face of Fitz Roy, itself.

Prior mountaineering experience is useful, but not required. We will review and practice all necessary skills during the course of the trip. Excellent fitness and an ability to handle potentially harsh weather and wilderness mountain conditions are needed for this trip.

We have several extra days built into the schedule to accommodate the unpredictable weather of Patagonia, as well as to allow for additional days of mountain exploration, etc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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LAND COST

\$4,570.00 USD per person

\$900 deposit reserves spot on trip

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Arrival in El Calafate, Argentina.

From Calafate we will drive to El Chalten. Spend the night in El Chalten, enjoy dinner, gear check, etc.

Day 2 - From El Chalten we begin our trek, hiking to our camp at Rio Blanco.

Day 3 - Hike from Rio Blanco to Laguna de Los Tres, and then around the lake and up to our camp at Paso Superior.

Day 4 - From Paso Superior, we cross the Piedras Blancas Glacier, hiking along the base of the famous granite spires; Poincenot, East Face of Fitz Roy, Mermoz and Guillaumet. We hike down from Paso del Cuadrado to Refugio Piedra del Fraile.

Day 5 - From our camp at Piedra del Fraile, we hike up the Fitz Roy North Glacier and the surreal landscape around it, to camp at the base of the mountain.

Day 6 - From the Fitz Roy North Glacier, we travel around the Sitting Man Ridge and make four rappels, dropping into the Cerro Torre Valley, with amazing views of the impressive spires. We continue hiking down valley and sleep at Niponinos Camp.

Day 7 - From the Niponinos Camp we hike further down the Torre Glacier and around the Torre Lagoon to cross the Fitz Roy River using a Tyrolean traverse. Our day's hike brings us back to the town of El Chalten and our hotel.

Day 8 - Extra day built in for bad weather, etc. Glacier school, mountain exploration and rappelling classes can be done during this time as well.

Day 9 - Extra day built in for bad weather, etc. Glacier school, mountain exploration and rappelling classes can be done during this time as well.

Day 10 - Extra day built in for bad weather, etc. Glacier school, mountain exploration and rappelling classes can be done during this time as well.

Day 11 - Extra day built in for bad weather, etc. Glacier school, mountain exploration and rappelling classes can be done during this time as well.

Day 12 - Drive from El Chalten to the El Calafate airport for departure.

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PHOTOS

All photos are from a December 2011 scouting trip to the Fitz Roy Region



Camping under Fitz Roy with Cerro Torre in the background



The Sitting Man Ridge and Torre Glacier



Crossing the Fitz Roy River via Tyrolean traverse



Terminus of the Torre Glacier with Cerro Torre in the background



Cerro Torre