

## SOUTHERN ICE FIELD

Southern Patagonia, Argentina

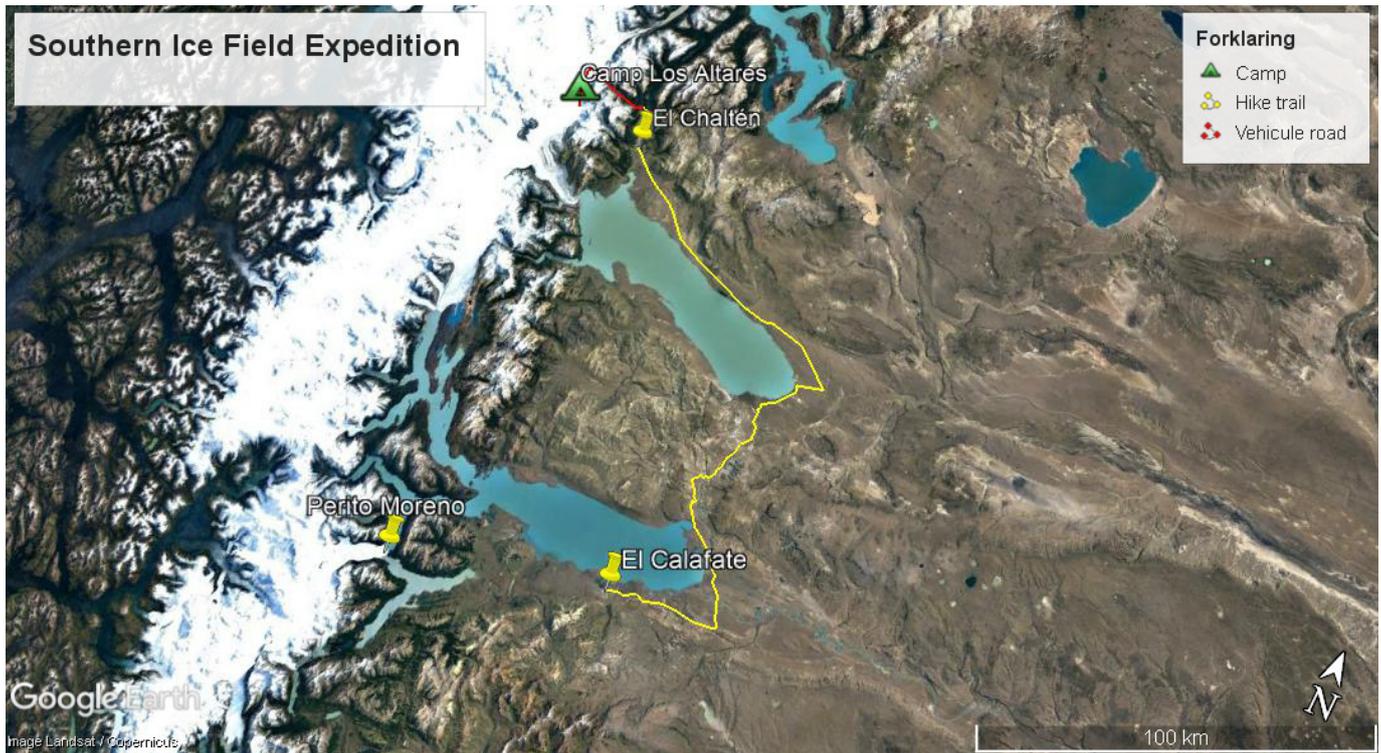
- Duration** 9 days / 8 nights
- Difficulty** Expert ●●●●
- Departure** November to March

### OVERVIEW

This is an adventure of a lifetime that requires stamina and grit, and participants must be fit and experienced in trekking and tent camping. The expedition-style journey crosses the mammoth Southern Ice Field on a 55-mile circuit (89km), providing one of the greatest experiences and most beautiful spectacles on earth, with rarely seen views of the west faces of the Fitz Roy and Torre mountains. Led by guides with vast experience in the area, all specialized gear, including crampons and rope/harness, are included.

### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Thoroughly experience the largest ice field outside of the poles.
- ★ Join the select few who have achieved the incredible west face views of Mount Fitz Roy.
- ★ Take upon one of your life's biggest challenges.



## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

### Day 1. Arrive in El Calafate

In the early morning you will be met by your guide and transfer across the Patagonian Steppe to the little mountain village El Chaltén. We'll have an equipment check and briefing of the upcoming adventure and a welcome dinner in the evening. We leave time for last minute adjustments.

**Accommodation:** In El Chaltén

**Meals:** D

**Transport:** 3 hours in private van

### Day 2. Hike to Marconi Glacier

Depart from El Chaltén and transfer to Rio Eléctrico. From here we will hike to our camp situated just below the Marconi Glacier. The terrain becomes alpine and we have to pay special attention on slippery moraine.

**Accommodation:** Wilderness Camp at Marconi Glacier Base

**Meals:** B, BL, D

**Activity:** 4-5 hours trekking - 8.5 Miles/ 13.5 km; 600ft - 182m elevation gain

**Transport:** 1/2 hour in private van

### **Day 3. Marconi Pass to Mount Gorra Blanca**

We will hike the ascent of the Marconi Pass where we'll start to trek on the ice and then towards the Sotto Garcia Refuge situated at the very base of Mount Gorra Blanca. We need reasonably good weather today to be able to reach the pass. If weather permits, we will be presented with fantastic views of the mountains Fitz Roy, Pier Giorgio and Gorra Blanca.

**Accommodation:** Sotto Garcia Refuge

**Meals:** B, BL, D

**Activity:** 10 hours trekking - 9 Miles/ 14.5 km; 3,000ft - 900 m elevation gain

### **Day 4. Circo de los Altares (The Altar Cirque)**

As we trek on the ice towards Circo de Los Altares (The Altar Cirque) it will be a relatively short day so you will have plenty of time to enjoy the most impressive views of the Los Glaciers National Park. This might be one of the most isolated and powerful places on earth.

**Accommodation:** Wilderness Camp "Circo de Los Altares"

**Meals:** B, BL, D

**Activity:** 4-6 hours trekking - 10.5 Miles/ 16.90 km; 600ft -180 m descent

### **Day 5. Sotto Garcia Refuge**

Today we trek back towards Sotto Garcia Refuge. The day starts out rather light, however on the ice field new challenges occur while we leave the "Altar" behind. We can appreciate incredible views to the north of the Mariano Moreno range and the Volcano Lautaro situated in the very heart of the ice field.

**Accommodation:** Sotto Garcia Refuge

**Meals:** B, BL, D

**Activity:** 4-6 hours trekking - 10.5 Miles/ 16.90 km; 600ft -180 m descent

### **Day 6. Marconi Mountain Pass to Electric Valley**

We descend carefully through the Marconi Mountain Pass. The environment changes as we enter the high alpine area, our first step back toward civilization. Contemplate on the incredible journey to one of the most isolated places while we hike to the Rio Eléctrico Valley.

**Accommodation:** Wilderness Camp at Marconi Glacier Base

**Meals:** B, BL, D

**Activity:** 6 hours trekking - 9 Miles/ 14.5 km; 3,000ft - 900 m descent

**Day 7. Additional day in case of bad weather**

The weather in the northern part of Los Glaciers National Park is unstable due to its unpredictable nature. It may cause unexpected and/or multiple changes in the original itinerary while underway, which is why we have incorporated a certain amount of flexibility in our itinerary; We have included an extra day to allow our chance for a successful expedition. Any decision on itinerary changes will be made by your mountain guide.

**Accommodation:** Wilderness Camp

**Meals:** B, BL, D

**Day 8. Back to El Chaltén**

We hike back through the Rio Eléctrico Valley to El Chaltén. Farewell dinner at a restaurant.

**Accommodation:** Hotel in El Chaltén

**Meals:** B, BL, D

**Activity:** 6 hours trekking - 8.5 miles/ 13.5 km; 600ft - 180 m descent

**Day 9. Goodbye Chaltén**

You can depart in the morning from El Chaltén. Transfer to El Calafate can be included upon request.

**Meals:** B

## **INCLUDED**

- Local knowledgeable English-speaking mountain guide (1:3 clients)
- Private transfer from El Calafate – El Chaltén, day 1
- Transfer to trail head & from Trail end Rio Eléctrico
- Technical equipment for glacier advance (crampons, harness, ropes, etc. – see below)
- Porter for tents and camp equipment (NOT food)
- All meals as stated 8B (Breakfast), 7BL (Box lunch), 8D (Dinner)
- 3 nights in hostel/ hotel in El Chaltén
- 7 nights Wilderness Camping
- Group bio security equipment (according to international standards)
- Emergency kit: Wilderness First aid kit, VHF/ UHF radio and Satellite phone
- Tents and Camp equipment (pots, stoves, utensils etc)

## **NOT INCLUDED**

- Beverages (Alcohol or soft drinks)
- Tips to local guide & other personnel
- International and Domestic flights to Buenos Aires and El Calafate
- Porters to carry personal equipment (can be contracted)
- Personal equipment (sleeping bag, sleeping pad (mattress), technical clothes, trekking boots etc.)
- Group bio security equipment (according to international standards)
- Personal medical and evacuation insurance (obligatory)

## **EQUIPMENT INCLUDED**

- Mountain Expedition Tents
- Personal utensils and kitchen set
- Snowshoes
- Crampons
- Harness
- Rope and safety equipment
- Shovel
- Sleigh
- VHF Radio
- GPS (Global Positioning System)

