



**PATAGONIA FRONTIERS**

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# The Gaucho Way

3-DAY GUIDED BACKPACKING

PATAGONIA, CHILE

# The Gaucho Way **\$675** ALL-INCLUSIVE\*

3-DAY GUIDED BACKPACKING IN PATAGONIA, CHILE



Discover a pristine and unknown part of wild Patagonia, famed for its untouched natural beauty.

Our wilderness home is located in the Solér Valley along the water's edge of Lago Plomo in the Aysén Region of Patagonia, Chile. The waters of Lago Plomo are the furthest western extension of South America's second largest lake, Lago General Carrera. Our ranches are situated in the center of an immense, wild terrain of crystalline lakes, deep blue rivers, clean mountain streams, broad valleys, ancient forests and spectacular, glaciated peaks. They are sentinel to nearly 2,000 square kilometers of navigable lake waters and a private gateway to a vast mountain topography encompassing surrounding national parks, the Northern Patagonia Icefield and numerous adjacent ranges.

Fill your lungs with fresh, clean air while listening to the natural rhythm of lake waves hitting rocky shores, and the soft thumping of horse hooves connecting with the earth. Participate in the local custom of sharing mate, a local tea.

Enjoy a deliciously prepared meal in community with others. Share a glass of wine and stories around a campfire. Identify the Southern Cross amongst the night's sparkling stars. Cup your hands in pure, frigid water and enjoy the sweet taste of a mountain brook.

**The Gaucho Way** is our signature route. It follows traditional paths used by the Gauchos, Chilean cowboys who are friends and neighbors. On horseback, they herd cattle to market and return to their homesteads with flour, sugar, yerba mate and other sundries. The Gaucho Way denotes both their passage through the mountain landscape and their distinctive, gracious culture.

We hope that this sample itinerary highlights what this trip offers. Ideally, each trip is best crafted by working together with our guests to best meet their needs. Each trip's length, activity types, and skill level may be adapted to meet a party's goals and desires.

Whether you choose an established itinerary or create one of your own, our commitment is to accommodate your interests and to provide you with a thoroughly enjoyable, safe and memorable experience. We look forward to hosting you at our wilderness ranch home.

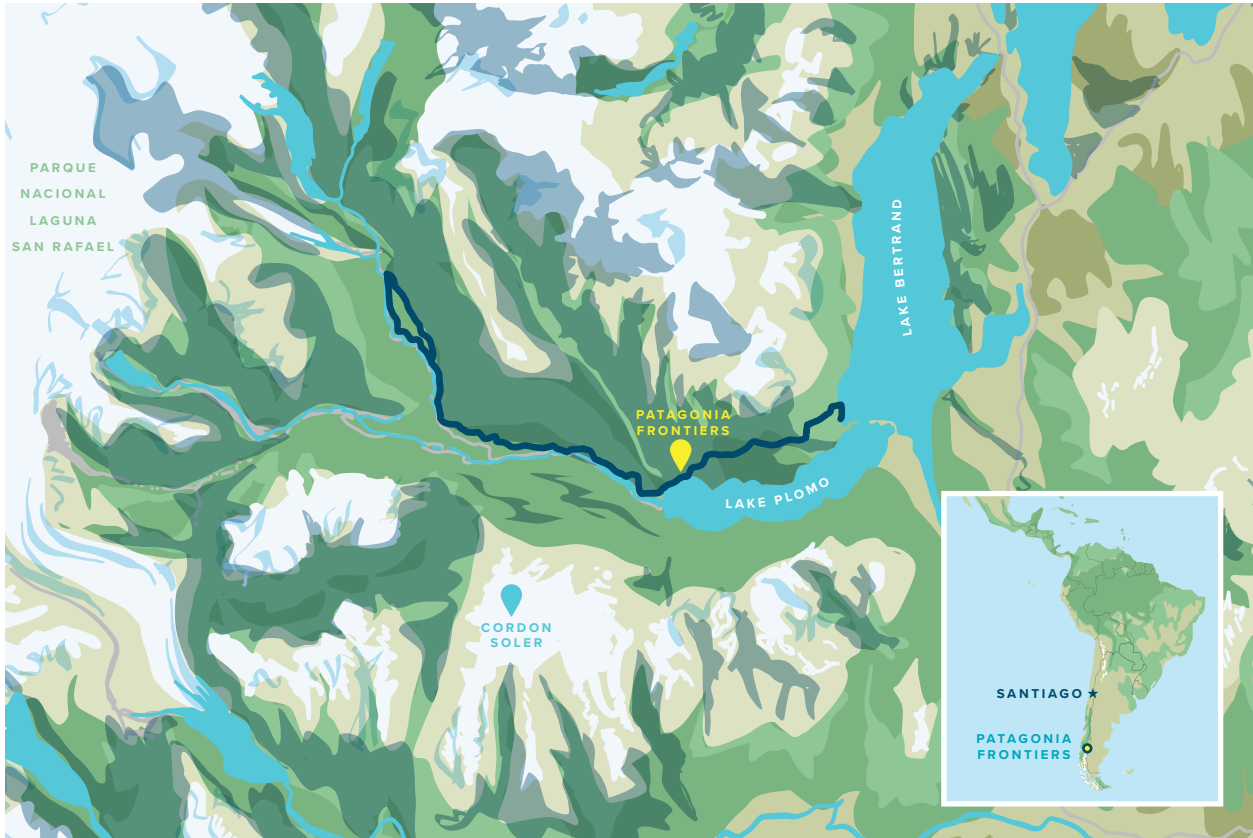
Our connection with the natural world, and who we share it with, is part of what we value most in life.

Prices in US dollars

\*See terms and conditions

# The Gaucho Way

DAY BY DAY AT A GLANCE



Day	Accommodations	Summarized Program	Distance
1	Tent Camp at Cacho Ranch	Boat shuttle to main ranch. Orientation. Begin multi-day guided backpacking trek in Solér Valley and Cacho Valley.	1 hour boat shuttle, 12 km. (7 mi.)
2	Tent Camp at Cacho Ranch	Trek to view Northern Patagonia Icefield.	12-18 km. (7-11 mi.)
3		Complete supported trek. Boat shuttle to Puerto Bertrand.	12-16 km. (7-10 mi.), 1 hour boat shuttle



# Detailed Itinerary



## DAY 1

Puerto Bertrand is your departure point for Patagonia Frontiers. You board a boat and travel 16 kilometers (10 mi.) across two connected lakes to reach our dock and main ranch. There are no roads here. Once you've met your guides and staff and had a look around we will prepare for our trek up the Solér Valley, toward the icefield. There are several short creek crossings so don't forget those sandals or water shoes.

The long valleys, lush temperate forests and mountain peaks offer a wide variety of terrain in which to trek and it's not uncommon to see soaring condors or even the elusive huemul, a small endangered deer that appears on the Chilean coat of arms. The varied terrain means that you'll be able to experience everything from craggy mountain trails to long, sandy beaches, and always with a backdrop of the majestic mountain panorama.

Tonight's destination is situated on the banks of the Cacho River. This tent camp is located just beyond the intersection of two large valleys facing each other, across the Solér Valley floor. This is one of our favorite spots and we always sense energy here, be it from the massive peaks, the open space, the flowing water, or the pristine landscape. There's contentment here in an evening fire, while enjoying good company, and watching the horses graze against a slowly darkening backdrop that reveals southern stars above white, jagged peaks.

**One-hour boat shuttle. Trekking distance is approximately 12 kilometers (7 mi.).**

## DAY 2

Mate and breakfast are served around a campfire as you watch the long, creeping approach of the morning's sun slip down from the peak tops to the valley floor. Today, you will hike and explore an untouched depth of wild Patagonia that is seldom revealed.

If the day is clear, your views will encompass the surrounding peaks and glaciers, five and six thousand feet in elevation above you and the awe-inspiring and formidable Northern Patagonia Icefield, with Cerro Hyades standing firm at the head of the Cacho Valley. The difference in elevation between the valley floor at the far end of our Cacho Ranch and the summit of this monumental peak is 10,000 feet!

Along the way is the old-growth forest of Coigüe, or Dombey's beech, with its elegant branches and thick, lustrous evergreen leaves. The large Magellanic woodpecker is frequently seen or heard here, with its resoundingly deep echo reverberating through the air as it searches for grubs in the ruin of aged trunks. This is also home to the endangered huemul, or South Andean Deer, as well as predators such as the Geoffroy's Cat, Patagonian Fox, and Puma. Hidden in plain view, inconspicuous amongst the grandeur of the landscape, is a marble mountainside.

Weather, river levels, the groups pace and energy levels will ultimately influence the furthest point of the trek. If conditions permit it is possible to reach as far as the massive glacier's edge before returning to the tent camp for the night.

**Trekking distance may vary and is approximately 12-18 kilometers (7-11 mi.).**

## DAY 3

As the morning sunlight edges toward camp, you'll sip yerba mate around a fire, and marvel as the light plays over the peaks of snow, ice and rock. There's plenty of time to take in the beauty before packing up camp, and heading back home down valley. Upon departing, we will travel one of several routes back down the valley to the main ranch.

Prepare to say goodbye to the ranch before departing by boat to Puerto Bertrand.

**Trekking distance is approximately 12-16 kilometers (7-10 mi.).**