



PATAGONIA FRONTIERS

A Wilderness Education, Adventure,
and Nature Conservancy Ranch

Mountaineering

10-DAY MOUNTAINEERING COURSE
IN PATAGONIA, CHILE (SOUTHERN ANDES)

Mountaineering

10-DAY MOUNTAINEERING COURSE IN PATAGONIA, CHILE



There are over 1,600 square miles of glaciers in our backyard.
Welcome to your classroom.

In the minds of climbers, Patagonia summons up legendary mystery and challenge. This vast region, encompassing the entire southern cone of South America, is a study in contrasts. From the fantastic forms of the Patagonia Andes to the endless flat grassland of the Pampa; from the world's third largest ice cap to the untouched temperate rain forests; and from the cloud-draped saltwater fjords to the arid desert-like steppes, this land will surprise and delight. Located entirely within the countries of Argentina and Chile, this region enjoys contemporary development and technology while being very sparsely populated.

This course is ideal for motivated and fit beginners and for those climbers who wish to review or enhance their skills.

Our Patagonia classroom offers some of the finest mountaineering training ground available. Learning, practice and climbing time are maximized as we take advantage of the unique location of the Patagonia Frontiers base and its direct approaches and exclusive access into the mountains and onto the glaciers and peaks.

We provide in-depth training in all phases of mountaineering and expedition travel. There are ample opportunities to put your skills to use on these magnificent and varied peaks in the heart of Chilean Patagonia. Learning and ascent opportunities are plentiful and we'll match your skill level to the most appropriate training, summits and climbing goals.

This course is specifically designed to increase the participant's technical knowledge and skills in all aspects of snow, glacier and alpine mountaineering, and to establish mountain and expedition living skills that will serve as a solid base for future mountain endeavors. The course will develop educated, self-reliant climbers with the ability to evaluate, mitigate and manage subjective and objective mountain hazards, develop technical mountaineering skills and experience base, teach and practice Leave No Trace practices, leadership and communication techniques, risk analysis and judgment.

Princes in US dollars
*See terms and conditions

Mountaineering Course

DAY BY DAY AT A GLANCE



Day	Accommodations	Summarized Program	
		Depart country of origin on international flight to Santiago, Chile (SCL).	
	Hostel	Arrive Santiago. Domestic flight to Balmaceda Regional Airport (BBA). Transfer to Coyhaique.	
1	Tent Camp, Main Ranch	Early morning bus to Puerto Bertrand. Boat shuttle to Patagonia Frontiers Main Ranch.	300 km. (6 hours). 16 km (1 hour boat shuttle.)
2	Tent Camp, Main Ranch	Preparation and orientation day at Patagonia Frontiers Wilderness Ranch.	
3	Tent Camp, Contreras Valley	Approach ascent to Contreras Valley. Overnight camp in Contreras Valley.	6 km. (4 mi.)
4	Tent Camp, Contreras Valley	Contreras Valley, Mountaineering skills review.	
5	Tent Camp, Contreras Valley	Contreras Valley, Mountaineering skills review.	
6	Tent Camp, Valley Zero	Valley Zero, Mountaineering skills review and practice.	
7	Tent Camp, Valley Zero	Valley Zero, Mountaineering skills review and practice.	
8	Tent Camp, Valley Zero	Possible peak ascents throughout the program. Summits range from 2200m to 2600m (Hidden Peak, Contreras Peak, Rampart, Cerro Campamento, etc.) covering all mediums (rock, snow, ice, glacier and mixed) and a wide range of difficulty levels.	
9	Tent Camp, Main Ranch	Descend to Patagonia Frontiers Wilderness Ranch. Celebratory dinner.	6 km. (4 mi.)
10	Hostel	Boat shuttle to Puerto Bertrand. Bus to Coyhaique.	16 km (1 hour boat shuttle.) 300 km. (6 hours).
		Transfer to Balmaceda Airport. Domestic flight to Santiago. Begin international flight.	
		Arrive final destination.	

*If you select the private transfer option, you may arrive the same day as the course start day and depart from BBA on the course end date.



OVERVIEW

The Patagonia Mountaineering program combines the opportunities of our school curriculum with special access to an incomparable classroom and climbing region. Patagonia Frontiers exclusive base is located on one of our private wilderness ranches in the Soler Valley along the water's edge of Lago Plomo in the Aisén Region of Patagonia, Chile. The waters of Lago Plomo are the furthest western extension of South America's second largest lake, Lago General Carrera. The 2000+ acre ranch is situated in the center of an immense, wild landscape of crystalline lakes, deep blue rivers, broad valleys, ancient forests and spectacular, glaciated peaks. Our ranches form a private gateway to a vast mountain wilderness encompassing the national parks of the Northern Patagonia Icefield and the numerous adjacent ranges.

With the rise in popularity of backpacking and climbing, mountains around the world are visited by ever-increasing numbers of people. We are drawn to the mountains for their beauty, purity, remoteness, ruggedness, and the unique challenges and lessons they present. For those of us at Patagonia Frontiers, mountains are our home and these mountains most specifically. It is our responsibility to maintain the natural beauty of the wilderness areas we explore. With this in mind, we are unwilling to sacrifice their preservation for human objectives. At Patagonia Frontiers, environmental stewardship is one of our core values and we observe Leave No Trace ethics and practices very seriously. On all of our courses we teach and follow environmentally appropriate Leave No Trace principles and practices.

Graduates receive a thorough written evaluation detailing their performance on the course, the particulars of reviewed curriculum, capability levels, and suggested steps for continued development. Successful graduates may also request a certificate of completion signed by their course leader and the school director.

LOCATION

This location was hand-picked by John Hauf, founder and 14-year long director of NOLS Patagonia, an international outdoor leadership and mountaineering school located in the heart of Patagonia. After many years of mountaineering, exploring and teaching in the area, John purchased the ranch for its unique and privileged access to the countless surrounding mountains. These ranges contain a broad array of mountaineering opportunities, objectives whose level of challenge ranges from beginner to expert. Think of a private ranch embraced on all sides by peaks varying in similarity from the North Cascades Mountains in the Pacific Northwest to the giants of the Alaska Range and you'll have an idea of Patagonia Frontiers mountaineering. Additionally, the reverse seasons between northern and southern hemispheres means that you'll have access to glacial mountaineering when North American opportunities are extremely limited. The courses are excellent preparation for an Aconcagua or Denali climb, Elbrus or other Northern Hemisphere climbs the very next season.

Most students arrive by air to the Balmaceda airport (BBA) near Coyhaique, a growing town of 60,000. Your course begins in Puerto Bertrand, located five hours south along the principal regional highway. Students may coordinate with Patagonia Frontiers to select travel options:

- Combine bus reservations with overnights in hostels. Economical and leisurely.
- Private transfers between the airport and Puerto Bertrand. Expeditious for tight schedules. Proportional cost basis.

From Puerto Bertrand, there is a ten mile boat ride to the base at Patagonia Frontiers wilderness ranch during which time you'll have ample opportunity to view the snow-capped and glaciated peaks of the Cordón Soler, the Cordón Contreras, and the Northern Patagonia Icefield. Your team will finish final preparations at the ranch and depart for the mountains the next morning.