



Argentina/Chile - Andean Territories

13 days / 12 nights / 10 stages / 2 400 km

Why not treat yourself to the Andes?

Leave your daily routine behind and get a different perspective on life! From the very start, the sheer hugeness of the space, the emptiness and stunning beauty of the surroundings fascinate the explorer. Nature at its very purest!

Can you feel the scent of adventure and mystery? Of course you can. You are now in Argentina, a huge country that stretches over an area of 2 780 400 km². An overwhelming 5 121 km separate its northernmost point, la Quiaca, from Ushuaia at the very south! Just too many km to cover in one go!

This trip will therefore focus on the north, where the local inhabitants still remind of us the native people who once inhabited these lands. It is also a region of high plateaus, of mountain ridges and salt flats. These permanent natural sights are sometimes hard to reach and observe, allowing them to remain oblivious to mass tourism. Take a deep breath and get ready for this expedition that unfolds at a height of 3 500 m.

A never-ending sea of mountain peaks, breath-taking panoramic views, a range of colors and hues never seen before, and no one around to break the spell! This is what northern Argentina and Chile have to offer, and so much more!

In this Western-like décor, lonely tracks follow other lonely tracks. A paradise for trail motorbikes, the most practical vehicle to visit and discover these countries!

YOUR PROGRAM

Day 1 - Day 1 – Arrival in Calama (Chile)

Arrival in Calama, Chile.
Overnight stay in the hotel.

Day 2 - Day 2 / Stage 1 - Calama – San Pedro de Atacama (alt. 2 500 m): 120 km

This itinerary starts with a long 120 km stretch of smooth asphalt to reach the huge expanse of white land, the amazing Atacama Salt Flat.

Day 3 - Day 3 / Stage 2 - San Pedro de Atacama – Susques (Argentina - alt. 3 600 m): 280 km

Today's itinerary will take us through high Andean plateaus and salt flats, skirting many a volcano. The variety of landscapes is amazing and the immensity of it all unbelievable. Throughout our trip we will be driving through and enjoying the deepest and most isolated places imaginable.

Border crossing from Chile to Argentina.



Day 4 - Day 4 / Stage 3 - Susques – San Antonio de los Cobres (alt. 3 775 m): 190 km

The trail runs at the very bottom of a narrow gorge skirting huge rocks, fallen from the cliffs around us. Such a tremendous change in scenery can only bring about a true break from routine! This is perhaps the stage with most magic!

All of a sudden and out of nowhere a flock of “ñandues” gallops at top speed right in front of our wheels. Not only have you been transported in space, but now have also been transported back to prehistoric times, where rare animals of all sorts roamed these lands freely.

The sun has almost reached the horizon as our bikes continue to travel forwards and reach the “Polvorilla”, a metal viaduct that glitters under the last rays of sun. This elegant railway bridge was built between 1930 and 1932 and allows the “Tren de las Nubes” to fly over the valley with ease!

Day 5 - Day 5 / Stage 4 - San Antonio de los Cobres – Cachi (alt. 2 280 m): 190 km

Our masterful South American escapade seems to cling onto the steep hills with great skill!

The Abra del Acay Pass lies almost at an altitude of 5 000 m. Patches of snow still linger here and there. A series of closed curves will gracefully takes us back down along the shores of a mountain river. Oblivious to the natural mist generated by a waterfall nearby, a heard to llamas graze on a green open field. Llamas, alpacas, guanacos and vicuñas all share this natural habitat. Mudbrick houses spring out of the ground here and there, drying red peppers in every court yard.

Cachi is a cute sleepy little town made of white clay.

Day 6 - Day 6 / Stage 5 - Cachi – Cafayate (alt. 1 700 m): 240 km

The morning's drive will take us along a ribbon of smooth biker-friendly dirt that seems to float gracefully between a sheer cliff wall on the one side and a river on the other. Later on, the track slaloms between impressive cacti. From here one can observe a series of neat well-kept gardens belonging to a modest clump of mudbrick houses. At the very end of the valley, set in the midst of a remote village, you have reached Hacienda de Molinos: a lovely construction with green shutters where you will be pausing for lunch. A giant pepper tree generously gives shade to the restaurant's tables. This is also one of our favorite stages, (just like the day before and undoubtedly the day after!). Every stretch of the itinerary has something stunning to offer the traveler!

Day 7 - Day 7 – Cafayate

This lively city surrounded by renowned vineyards is well-worth a whole day's visit!

Day 8 - Day 8 / Stage 6 - Cafayate – Antofagasta de la Sierra (alt. 3 440 m): 410 km

Although this first stretch is straight, the surrounding views are so exceptional there is no time for boredom. After a pit stop at the petrol station, our bikes will not only be rolling on asphalt but will also be biting the dust as the track climbs towards the heights. The sheer hugeness of the landscape is breath-taking. The colors, surreal. Sands slides off the mountain slopes and lands on the track.

Towards the end of the day, the itinerary will take you through narrow and deep gorges, zigzagging between black jade rocks. And there, a volcano seems to jut out of the earth! It is magical, grandiose, so stunning!

A family of silver common cranes observe the lake shores. A number of houses indicate we are close to civilization: welcome to the small town of Antofagasta de la Sierra.



Day 9 - Day 9 / Stage 7 - Antofagasta de la Sierra – Tolar Grande (alt. 3 500 m): 310 km

Our track continues without wasting a second as it winds towards never-ending horizons! Whether you are driving on gravel, dirt, sand, ashes or basalt, you will be doing so throughout 400 km!

The surrounding landscape is powerful in its harshness! Here and there, salt flats or black mountains, clad in golden savannas. Yet another salt flat announces our arrival at the village of Tolar Grande, which regardless of its name, is one of the tiniest and remotest places ever!

Day 10 - Day 10 / Stage 8 - Tolar Grande – San Antonio de los Cobres (alt. 3 775 m) : 210 km

Each day brings with it, its very own wonders!

A salmon colored track weaves its way through a violet narrow pass, sculpted into the mountain of red earth!

This is a stage to remember as you wind your way around a seemingly infinite helix!

Day 11 - Day 11 / Stage 9 - San Antonio de los Cobres – San Pedro de Atacama (Chile - alt. 2 500 m): 330 km

A palette of colors ranging from pink ochres and burnt umber to delicate vanillas delights the traveler as the track continues to weaver its way over and around the High Plateaus. Mineral landscapes offer a variety of unexpected and original views!

Border crossing from Argentina back to Chile.

Day 12 - Day 12 / Stage 10 - San Pedro de Atacama – Calama: 120 km

Taking a stretch of road you already know from the start of the tour and making the most the beautiful surrounding landscapes, you will be heading back to Calama.

Day 13 - Day 13 – Departure from Calama

Trip back to your home country.

Additional information

TARIFFS

7160 € per pilot

Single room supplement : 1100 €.

GPS rental (with handlebar support and uploaded itinerary) : 60 €.

Supplement for the rental of a 200 Super Ténéré : 620 €.

INCLUDED

- Lodging
 - o hotels, in twin rooms,

 - o from the evening of the first day to the morning of the last day,

- Food:



- o Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- o from the morning of the first day to the morning of the last day,
- The complete and detailed itinerary,
- Tour leaders:
 - o A tour leader on his motorcycle,
 - o Support vehicle for luggage transport
- A rented motorcycle and its documentation to cross borders.

NOT INCLUDED

- Transportation
 - o Passenger transportation to and from tour starting point:
 - Air fares to and from tour start ,
 - transfers from the airport to the hotel and back,
- Beverages,
- Fuel for the motorcycles

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

The distances traveled are long but the roads and tracks taken are not particularly technical, except maybe the odd stream crossing or sand covered stretches. It is important to stay focused at all times as the roads can switch from rough asphalt to gravel without warning, surprising the pilot! This is the ideal trip for a motivated biker with some biking experience.

TWO UP? It could of course be considered, provided both rider and passenger are in good physical shape and have the adequate two-up off-road experience.

GUIDE AND LUGGAGE

A TrailRando guide will supervise the team on board their own vehicle.

At the same time, logistical support on four wheels will transport your luggage between stages every day. They will travel by road with regular meeting points along the route.

They can also pick up a rider and vehicle in the event of breakdown or exhaustion. The team also have a basic first aid kit,



tools, some spare parts and are able to lend a hand if required.

ACCOMMODATION

Lodging varies from high-end hotels to more modest B&Bs according to availability in some of the remote places visited.

A few examples:

> www.lamerceddelalto.com/fr

> www.patiosdecafayate.com

> www.hoteldelasnubes.com

DEPARTURE

Calama (Chile)

ARRIVAL

Calama

EQUIPMENT TO TAKE

RIDER'S EQUIPMENT

You should think carefully about saving space and reducing weight.

For riding

In addition to the normal motorcycle gear:

- Helmet
- Goggles (clear and tinted)
- Gloves
- Leather boots
- Motorcycle trousers and jacket
- Any protective equipment required to ride a motorcycle on any type of track

When riding, we advise you to carry a small backpack containing the following:

- Sun cream
- Lip balm
- Baby-wipes
- Scarf
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Waterproofs, to keep up morale during bad weather
- A change of gloves, to set off in a good mood after a rain shower
- A sweet snack tucked into a pocket (a life saver) will give you energy and takes up less room than a tin of spinach
- Water, vital to quench your thirst
- Survival blanket



- Swiss Army knife
- Pocket torch or head torch
- Optional camera
- Mobile phone (and charger!)

When you're dressed for riding, there should only be a few things remaining in your bag (please do not bring suitcases but rather a duffel bag, sports bag or rucksack without a frame).

For the evening

- Tee-shirts
- Socks
- Long-sleeved shirt
- Jumper or sweatshirt
- A change of trousers and shorts
- Swimwear
- Lightweight shoes
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Personal medication

A concentrated miracle: travel light, choose a tube of detergent!

For navigating

- Small notebook and pen to note down the briefing instructions each day
- Batteries for the GPS

Tools and spare parts

Carry basic tools and spare parts in your rucksack (levers, quick-release clips, clamps...) to remain self-sufficient along the route.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ALTITUDE

The difficulty of this trip lies in the altitude where oxygen is scarce. It is important that you get your General Practitioner to confirm that there are no apparent medical objections to you taking part in this adventure. Furthermore, a specialized doctor will give you the information you need to take into consideration, after running some tests.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- Valid driver's license
- Valid passport set to expire at least six months after the final day of travel.
- Medical certificate confirming there are no apparent medical objections to you taking part in this adventure.



Mandatory!

REPATRIATION INSURANCE

If you are already insured, check with your provider to ensure your policy is valid:

- In the country in question
- For the type of activity you will be undertaking

If required, we can provide you with repatriation insurance

PRACTICAL INFORMATION ON ARGENTINA

- Telephone country code: + 54
- Time difference: -4 h in winter / -5 h in summer (GMT-3)
- Voltage/frequency: 220V - 50Hz (you might need an adaptor)

INFORMATION ON ARGENTINA

- Capital City: Buenos Aires
- Surface area: 2 791 870 km²
- Population: 43 431 886 inhabitants
- Language: Spanish
- Religion: Catholicism (90%)
- Currency: Argentine peso (ARS)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION ON CHILE

- Telephone country code: + 56
- Time difference: -4 h in winter/-5 h in summer (GMT-4)
- Voltage/frequency: 220V - 50Hz

INFORMATION ON CHILE

- Capital City: Santiago de Chile
- Surface area: 756 096 km²
- Population: 18 006 407 inhabitants
- Language: Spanish
- Religion: Catholicism (90%)
- Currency: Chilean peso (CLP)

Health precautions

We strongly advise you to pay a visit to your GP before embarking on this adventure. Your GP will be able to prescribe you a drug against potential mountain sickness.