

FUTALEUFU EXPEDITION PATAGONIA, CHILE (brief itinerary)

DAYS 1 & 2: U.S. / SANTIAGO / PUERTO MONTT

This evening you fly (on your own) from the United States to Santiago, Chile and then on to Puerto Montt. Arriving in Puerto Montt you meet the Earth River representative and transfer to the ½ hour charter flight to the Northern Patagonian village of Chaiten. The rest of the afternoon is free to explore this tiny fishing village. We spend the night in a quaint hotel.

Note: (flights from the U.S. to Puerto Montt, are not included. Chaiten flight is included.)

DAY 3: PUERTO MONTT / RIO FUTALEUFU

Boarding a comfortable Mercedes Bus this morning we drive an hour and a half to a trailhead where we take a gorgeous hike through a rain forest, past waterfalls, to the base of a glacier. After lunch we drive another hour and ½ to our training day put in on the Futaleufu. We begin training by doing a flip drill and then running a series of Class 4+ rapids. A short drive from the take out and a one mile hike takes us to the Earth River Terminador Camp, the first of Earth River's four stunning private camps complete with 2 miles of private river front, wooden cliff dwellings and cliffside hot tub with sunning views of Terminador Rapid.

DAY 4: RIO FUTALEUFU / CAVE CAMP

Today we hike 1 mile to the dirt road and drive to the put-in on the upper river where we run the wild, sheer walled class 5 Inferno Canyon (class 4 participants ride horses or hike around on a beautiful trail). In the afternoon we raft down to the private 1,000 acre Earth River Cave Camp the most exotic and diverse river camp in the world. Cave Camp features river carved stone hot tubs, native stone shelters with fireplaces, clear kayaking ponds, private beaches and wooden cliff dwellings all set around Zeta rapid, the river's most impressive rapid.

DAY 5: CAVE CAMP / TREE HOUSE CAMP

This morning, we do a dramatic Tyrolean traverse (crossing by pulley on a rope) between sheer granite walls over Zeta Rapid and then hike 3 hours up to the tree house camp with its deep, 10 acre lake and old growth forest. In the afternoon there is an optional hike up to the tree house/canyon overlook where a group of condors may be seen soaring in the canyon thermals. We spend the night in hand crafted tree houses suspended 35 feet up in the old growth canopy with views of the lake and snow-capped Andes through the trees.

DAY 6: TREE HOUSE CAMP / TOWER CLIMB / CAVE CAMP

In the morning we hike down to the river where we take a 250 foot zip line back across the river (shooting down an angled rope on a pulley). After a soak in the stone hot tub and lunch on the smooth ledges above Zeta, we rock climb the 300' Torre de los Vientos (Tower of the Winds) and venture out on the Knife Edge for a stunning 360 degree view of the river and surrounding canyon. On the way down we do the two-stage, 300' Grand Tower rappel of the sheer north wall (self-lowering by rope) to the bottom (There is an optional 100' rappel off the back side). The evening is at the Cave Camp in stone shelters or cliff dwellings.

DAY 7: CAVE CAMP / MAPU LEUFU CAMP

In the morning we run a series of long, class 4+ rapids down to Mapu Leufu Camp. (Participants not wishing to run class 5 Terminador Rapid will get out here where we are spending the night). The next hour and a half will be spent running the river's most challenging class 5 section including Terminador and Himalayas Rapids. We then take out and hike 1.5 miles back upstream to the mouth of the Rio Blanco slot canyon where we spend the rest of the afternoon canyoneering (Rafts are rolled up and brought back upstream by ox cart to the Mapu Leufu Camp which allows us to run this incredible class 5 stretch again the next day.). After canyoneering, we take a manual cable car across the river Campo Mapu Leufu. This 300 acre camp sits on a 120 foot cliff over the river and includes cliff dwellings, cliffside hot tub, kayak pond, side creek with waterfalls, flush toilet and hot showers.

DAY 8: RIO FUTALEUFU / CAMPO MAPU LEUFU

*Today is one the most impressive commercial rafting days in the world boasting over 20 major rapids including Terminador, Himalayas, Mas O Menus and Casa Piedra. In the early afternoon we take out and drive half an hour back to the Campo Mapu Leufu trailhead. A ½ mile hike takes us into the camp's interior. That evening we have a farewell dinner celebration in the form of a traditional Chilean Asado (roasted sheep over a fire).

***OPTION:** Class 4 participants have the option of hiking on a trail around short sections of the bigger rapids.

DAYS 9 & 10: CHAITEN / PUERTO MONTT / SANTIAGO / UNITED STATES

The morning is free to take kayak lessons, go on a hike to an old growth forest and two lakes or relax in the hot tub. In the afternoon we drive three hours to Chaiten where we take the short scenic flight back to Puerto Montt and board the plane for Santiago and then on to the United States.