

## CROSS THE ANDES BY BIKE

Crossing The Andes by bike is a classic adventure. And do you know how many mountain crossings there are from Chile to Argentina or vice versa? 43. Yes, it's that many! Having said that, there's only one that also allows you to experience what it's like to sail through The Andes, traveling across three lakes that connect to four cycle routes in one day or more, leaving from Bariloche or Puerto Varas.

**Crossing The Andes along the lakes that connect Bariloche with Puerto Varas is like something out of a film.** Here are four reasons why you should give yourself the opportunity to make the crossing at least once in your life:

### **1. Bariloche in Argentina and Puerto Varas in Chile, two of the Patagonia's prettiest cities**

In Puerto Varas, a city colonized by Germans, you can find examples of the colonists' architecture and gastronomy, always accompanied by a backdrop of tall mountains and volcanoes, including the Tronador, Puntagudo and Osorno. It's one of Chile's prettiest volcanic regions. On the other side, Bariloche boasts forests, city landscapes, mountains, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, steppes and valleys. During your trip, take the time to explore both cities, visit the chocolatiers and artisanal breweries, enjoy the excursions and all that these incredible destinations have to offer.

### **2. Sail across three lakes: Nahuel Huapi, Frías y Todos los Santos**

This is the only crossing of The Andes that allows you to sail across three lakes. From Lake Nahuel Huapi (the fourth largest lake in Argentina) you arrive to Port Frías, where you say goodbye to Argentina and welcome Chile. You sail along Lake Frías at the foot of The Andes Mountain Range and then, having crossed the mountains, you arrive to the third sailing trip along Lake Todos los Santos.

### **3. Explore some of Argentina and Chile's most untouched national parks**

National parks always add that special something to a trip and, on many occasions, they are the difficult feature when we want to explore by bike. Therefore, when we find out which is explorable by bike, we really mustn't waste the opportunity.

Both Nahuel Huapi and Vicente Pérez Rosales are the oldest of all national parks located in Chile and Argentina. Explore their uninhabited and untouched routes, surrounded by coihues, ulmos, myrtle and olive trees.

### **4. Once in Bariloche or Puerto Varas, you can plan your route just as you'd like it**

***Upon arrival to Puerto Varas you can continue towards:***

- The south: The Southern Highway (Carretera Austral)
- The north: returning to Bariloche via the international border at Cardenal Samoré

***Upon arrival to Bariloche you can continue towards:***

- The south: on route to the Argentine Patagonia
- The north: Villa La Angostura, traveling along the edge of Lake Nahuel Huapi, continuing towards San Martín de los Andes and then crossing the international border at Cardenal Samoré to enter Chile via Puyehue.

## **Bike & Boat Crossing through The Andes in two days or more (staying in Peulla and/or Puerto Blest)**

**Total kilometers covered by bike: 121 kms - 75 miles**

**Difficulty: Medium**

**Experience: Unique!**

### **1st leg: Bariloche Center - Puerto Pañuelo | 25 kms - 15 miles**

- Altitude: 700 meters above sea level
- Difficulty: Low
- Land: Pavemented
- Sailing trip aboard the first catamaran on Lake Nahuel Huapi: 9:30 am
- Arrive to Puerto Pañuelo by: 9:15 am
- Traffic: High

We recommend that you take extra care, as heavy traffic passes along this route and there's little space to cycle off of the carriageway.

### **2nd leg: sailing trip from Puerto Pañuelo to Puerto Blest along Lake Nahuel Huapi**

- Length of sail: 1 hour aboard the catamaran Gran Victoria

It's important to arrive for the first sailing trip aboard the Brazo Blest by 9:15 am.

### **3rd leg: Puerto Blest - Puerto Alegre | 3 kms - 2 miles**

- Altitude: from 700 meters above sea level to 780 meters
- Difficulty: Low
- Land: Soil
- Sailing trip aboard the second catamaran on Lake Frías: 12.45 pm
- Arrive to the port by: 12:30 pm
- Optional accommodation: Hotel Puerto Blest
- Traffic: Low - just long-distance buses

Puerto Blest is home to a beautiful boutique hotel with spa and heated swimming pool, where you can decide to take a rest from your journey and continue the following day.

### **4th leg: sailing trip from Puerto Alegre to Puerto Frías on Lake Frías**

- Length of sail: 20 minutes aboard the catamaran Victoria del Sur

It's important to arrive to Puerto Alegre by 12.30 pm. Upon arrival to Puerto Frías, customs and immigration paperwork will be realized.

### **5th leg: Puerto Frías - Peulla | 29 kms - 18 miles**

- Altitude of cycling uphill: from 780 meters above sea level to 1000 meters, covering: 4 kms – 3 miles
- Altitude of cycling downhill: from 1000 meters above sea level to 150 meters, covering: 8 kms – 5 miles
- Altitude of cycling along horizontal plane: 150 meters above sea level, covering: 17 kms – 10 miles
- Land: pebbly soil
- Difficulty: medium to high (depending on each cyclist's rhythm)
- Sailing trip aboard the third and last catamaran on Lake Todos los Santos: 3:30 pm
- Arrive to the port by: 3:15 pm
- Optional accommodation: Hotel Natura or camping
- Traffic: Low - just long-distance buses

Verify that the time it takes to complete this leg by bike, crossing the mountain range, is enough for you to arrive to Peulla by 3:30 pm and from where you can board the third ship. For those who opt to stay in Peulla and continue with the journey the following day, there are many extra excursions on offer that you can enjoy.

## 6th leg: sailing trip from Peulla to Petrohué on Lake Todos los Santos

- Length of sail: 1 hour 40 minutes aboard the Catamaran Lagos Andinos

It's important to arrive for the Lake Todos los Santos sailing trip by 3:15 pm, a trip that passes through the interesting green color and exuberant vegetation of the Valdiviana Forest.

## 7th leg: Petrohué - Puerto Varas | 64 km - 40 miles

- Altitude: from 150 meters above sea level to 75 meters
- Land: paved cycle path
- Difficulty: medium
- Traffic: Low

**Note:** This is the longest of all the crossing's journeys

Leaving the dock at Petrohué, you cycle along Route 225, heading towards Ensenada, along a luxurious cycle path of 64 kilometers.

### *End of journey*

#### **It includes:**

- Sailing Lake Nahuel Huapi
- Navigation Lake Frías
- Navigation Lake All Saints

#### **Not included:**

- Bike
- helmet, first aid kit, etc, the necessary to make the crossing
- Boarding fees
- Meals
- Accommodation
- Support Truck route between Peulla and Puerto Frías (on request)

#### **Useful information:**

- Each passenger must arrive with his or her own cycle, prepared for high mountain terrains.
- We recommend that you carry a first-aid kit with you.
- Take into consideration that the difficulty of this route fluctuates between medium to high.
- Pack comfortable sports clothing and footwear, a warm coat, a hat, sunblock and sunglasses.
- It's obligatory to wear a cycle helmet for safety reasons.
- Pack a water bottle to keep you fully hydrated.
- It's obligatory to travel with all documentation required to make the border crossing from Argentina to Chile.
- Times are subject to modifications without prior notice. We recommend that you reconfirm all times before you travel.