



Patagonia Ice Field Expedition PROGRAM ITINERARY

PROGRAM DETAILS: The goal of this expedition is to traverse an eastern portion of the southern Patagonia Ice Field and then ascend Gorra Blanca (9547 ft / 2900 m), which is located near “Marconi Pass”, covering a distance of approximately 62 miles (100 km).

DIFFICULTY GRADE: Moderate to Difficult

PREREQUISITES:

- Like most all mountaineering trips, a solid level of physical fitness is required to assure an enjoyable time
- Previous experience camping in a wintery backcountry environment
- Multi-day backpacking and/or mountaineering experience
- Previous glacier travel experience

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS:

- Long walks of 6 to 10 hours
- Each climber carries their own personal equipment (~65 lbs)
- Moderate to big gains in elevation (up to 6000 ft in gain)

PROGRAM COST INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS:

Inclusions: Four Season Tents; Cooking Equipment, Fuel, Stoves and Expedition Meals; Snowshoes; Glacier Equipment: Crampons, Harness, Ropes, Shovel, etc.; Sledge/Sled; Communications Device (inReach/VHF Radio); Expedition First Aid Kit; Transfer El Chaltén-Río Eléctrico

Exclusions: Airfare; personal equipment; meals in cities; Transportation from El Calafate to El Chaltén; Lodging in El Chaltén; Porters (available upon request); Alcoholic Drinks; Gratuities; Personal Travel and Rescue Insurance

ITINERARY

Day 1: Debrief and Equipment Check

This is the first scheduled day of the program. You will meet with your guide and debrief about the details of the trip and do an equipment check.

- **Accommodations:** On your own - can add for additional fee
- **Meals included:** On your own

Day 2: Begin Trek

Transfer from El Chaltén to Río Eléctrico and start trekking. It takes about 8 hours to get to “Laguna de los 14” campsite at the foot of the Gorra Blanca glacier. The first 2 hours of the trek are in the lenga forest, and along the rocky terrain around Lago Electrico. There are also two river crossings during this trek, over the Pollone River and Electrico river. To get across the second river you will utilize a harness and cable zipline to get across the river.

- **Accommodations:** Laguna de los 14 Camp
- **Meals included:** Lunch, Dinner

Day 3: Trek to Paso Marconi (5085 ft / 1550m)

The third day will be spent trekking to Paso Marconi (5085 ft), around 6 - 8 hours. This day is the crux of the trip as we'll need good weather to reach the pass. Weather permitting, you will see stunning views of Fitz Roy, Piergiorgio, and Gorra Blanca, our main objective. After the camp area, there are some steep rocky passages before reaching the glacier. Once we make it to the glacier, we will start using cramps, ropes, and sleds to continue to the Gorra Blanca refuge.

- **Accommodations:** Refugio Eduardo García Soto
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4: Gorra Blanca Summit Attempt (9547 ft / 2900 m)

This day (depending on the weather) will be our summit attempt day for Gorra Blanca (9547 ft) by the normal route (NW ridge). We will ascend ice slopes with an average angle of 30 to 40 degrees, and then a short steeper section for the final push to the summit. If the weather is clear, we'll be able to see expansive views of the Ice Field, the Cordon Gaea, Volcano Lautaro, Fitz Roy, Cerro Torre, and others. After summiting, we'll head back to the refuge. Overall this is about a 10 hour day with a gain of 4000 ft (1300 m).

- **Accommodations:** Refugio Eduardo García Soto
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5: Trek to Circo de Los Altares

The fifth day is spent trekking to Circo de Los Altares. This is a shorter day, about 6 hours, with the possibility to include the approach to the famous west face of Cerro Torre. This site has one of the most impressive views of Los Glaciares National Park, as you look up the grand west face of Cerro Torre.

- **Accommodations:** Circo de los Altares camp
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6: Trek to Laguna Ferrari or Paso del Viento hut

Today you will be trekking to either Laguna Ferrari or Paso del Viento hut. After about 4 hours hiking south from the Circo, we exit the glacier and hike 2 - 3 more hours through moraines and rocky terrain.

- **Accommodations:** Laguna Ferrari Camp or Paso del Viento Hut
- **Meals included:** Break

Day 7: Trek over Paso del Viento (4900 ft / 1500 m)

Trek over Paso del Viento (4900 ft) and then trek down the Tunnel valley to get to Laguna Toro. On a clear day here, there are unbeatable panoramic views of Mariano Moreno Range and Viedma Glacier. The terrain here is rocky and we'll get to cross a short section of the Glacier Tunnel.

- **Accommodations:** Laguna Toro Camp
- **Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8: Hike Out

The final day is spent trekking back to El Chatén through the forest of lengas and over the Pliegue Tumbado. This day will take roughly 5 - 6 hours and we will celebrate the end of the expedition with a barbecue dinner!

- **Accommodations:** On your own - can add for additional fee
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch