

VILLA O'HIGGINS EXPEDICIONES

Carretera Austral km 1.240. Villa O'Higgins. Región de Aysén. Chile

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www.villaohiggins.com



BORDER CROSSING VILLA O'HIGGINS – EL CHALTEN.

SEASON 2015-2016

A travel through the Heart of the Patagonian Andes, crossing from the Carretera Austral (Chile) to Los Glaciares National Park (Argentina) between native forests, lakes, lagoons and rivers.

The trip is designed for you to make the trip from El Chalten (Argentina) to Villa O'Higgins (Chile), connecting all necessary services on the route.

We take care of all the details, including logistics and reservation of all the services.



THE TRAVEL

The crossing consists of five segments.

The first 7 kms, corresponding to segment 1 Villa O'Higgins to Bahamondez Port, are fit for bus, cycling or trekking. The following 51 kilometers corresponding to segment 2 Crossing O'Higgins Lake, only fit for navigation.

The next 22 kilometers correspond to segment 3 Border Crossing Candelario Mancilla to Desierto lake, which are fit for horse riding, cycling and walking, continuing with 13 kilometers corresponding to segment 4 Crossing Desierto Lake, only fit for navigation or trekking, ending with segment 5 Desierto lake to El Chalten, of 40 kilometers, is fit for bus or cycling.

NOTE: There is not option for crossing from Villa O'Higgins to El Chalten with vehicles.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

- **Duration:** 2 days. Strong wind or storms mandate cancellations of this passage. If you really want to experience, to accommodate for this the possibility).
- Starting point: V.O'Higgins, day 1 in the morning..
- Ending point: El Chaltén, day 2 in the afternoon.
- **Distance:** 133 kilometers.
- **Difficulty:** Moderate.
- **Transport:** bus, boat, bike & walk or horse riding.

1 . VILLA O'HIGGINS TO BAHAMONDEZ PORT

Distance: 7 KM Drop: 10 mt ;

Condition: Good gravel road. Great scenery. For Bikes: first 3 kilometers are flat. From Mayer River bridge to the port is hilly with many bends. Easy.

Schedule: 07:50 A.M Bus from R. Crusoe Lodge.

Fare Bus CH\$ 2.500.-

Journey Time: 15 minutes in bus / 35 minutes in bike.

2 .- BOAT ACROSS O'HIGGINS LAKE.

Boat "Quetru" (56 passengers capacity).

Schedule:

- November 2015: Saturday
- December 2015: Wednesday and Saturday
- January and February 2016: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.
- March 2016: Saturday

08:30 AM. Departure by boat to Candelario Mancilla, passing La Florida Peninsula in route.

11:15 A.M. Arrival at Candelario Mancilla Port.

11:45 A.M. Departure by boat C.Mancilla to Glaciar O'Higgins, passing in front of the glacier calving area en route.

17:00 P.M. Arrival at Candelario Mancilla Port.

Journey Time: Crossing O'Higgins Lake 2:45 hr. O'Higgins Glacier Trip: 5:00 hr.

Fare:

- Lago O'Higgins Crossing: CH\$ 44.000; Bikes free.
- O'Higgins Glacier Trip: CH\$28.000.

Considerations: If you are prone to sea-sickness, bring medication.

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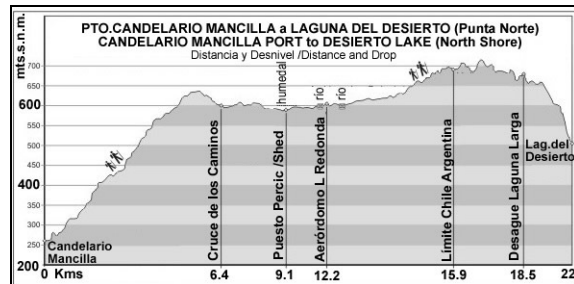
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③.- CHILE / ARGENTINIA BORDER. (O'higgins Lake to Desierto Lake).

Distance: 22 kms. Drop: 430 mt.- Meters above sea level: O'Higgins Lake 255 mt. / Town Border 685 mts / Desierto L. 505 m.



In Chile: 15.9 Kms. Drop: 430 mt ascent. Trekking 4 hr, Horse Riding 2,5 hr, Bike 3 hr; **Condition:** gravel road. First 5 kms are narrow and soft steep. Bridges in km 12 and 13. Easy for trekking. Moderate for bikes.

In Argentina: 6.1 Kms. Drop 180 mt descent. Trekking 2 HR. Horse Riding 1 Hr, Bike 2 at 4 Hr **Condition:** The trail is undulating with lots of mud, tree roots and several streams to cross. Moderate for trekking, difficult for bikes.

Customs:

- **Chilean Border Control:** Carabineros de Chile at 900 meters of C. Mancilla Port.
- **Argentinian Border Control:** Gendarmeria Argentina in Desierto Lake north shore.

Transfer C.Mancilla / Desierto Lake: Only next day O'Higgins lake crossing.

-Stage 1 with Van (pickup): Candelario Mancilla to Border (km 15.9). CL\$10.000 for person and CL\$5000 each backpacker. Departure with minimum of two passengers.

-Stage 2 with Horses: Laguna Redonda (km 12) to Desierto.Lake (km 22). NOTE: Departure with minimum of two horses.

Horse for persons: Fare CL\$ 30.000;

Horse for bags -60 kgs. Fare CL\$ 30.000;

Estancia Candelario Mancilla: 250 meters from Candelario Mancilla Port.

- **Lodging** CH\$10.000/night and **Camping** CH\$4.000

- **Food:** breakfast: ch\$ 4.000,lunch/dinner ch\$ 8.000.

Maps for border Crossing: Buy in Villa O'Higgins.

- Chalten Trekking Maps. Zona Lago O'Higgins, Escala 1:100.000. Chalten Outdoors

④.- BOAT ACROSS DESIERTO LAKE.

Boat "Huemul" / "Tehuelche".

Schedule Shore North to Shore South:

- November: Sunday 18:30 h.
- 1 -.20 December: Thursday and Sunday 18:30 h.
- 20 December - 28 February 2015: Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday 18:30 h.
- 1 - 14 March 2015: Thursday and Sunday 18:30 h.
- 15 March - 6 April 2015: Sunday 18:30 h.

Journey Time: 50 minutes

Fare: CL\$ 21.000.

Alternative route: Trail of 16 kms, span of lake.

⑤ . DESIERTO LAKE TO EL CHALTEN

Distance: 40 kms; **Drop:** 105 mt; **Condition:** OK gravel road.

Schedule: Bus every day 13:30 hs., 16:00 hs. y 20:00 hs.

Journey Time: Bus 1:30 hr. / Bike 2:30 hr.

Fare Bus: CL\$ 20.000.-

Food: Not available, beverage only at Desierto Campground in south shore.

*** TIPS ***

Food: Supermarket, hostels, restaurant only El Chalten and Villa O'Higgins AND El Chalten.

Clothing: Take warm and water-proof garments.

Lodging in Villa O'Higgins: Hospedajes B&B from ch\$9.000 and camping ch\$4.000.

Lodging in El Chalten: Hospedajes B&B from AR\$90 and camping AR\$50.

Bank: Villa O'Higgins and El Chaltén, it still has not got certain services of bank, but there is an cash machines (ATM) en El Chalten.

Credits Cards: Villa O'Higgins and El Chaltén accepted.

Money Exchange: In Villa O'Higgins and El Chaltén accepted US\$, Euro, Argentinian and Chilean pesos.

For exchange, reference

El Calafate Transfer: Every days (7:30, 8:00, 13:00, 18:00 hrs.). 4 companies (CalTur, Chalten Travel, Las Lengas and Taqsa). Rates AR\$300. Duration 3 hrs.

Fire: Campfire are not allowed. It is atrictly forbidden to light any kind in the route. You are only allowed to use propane or kerosene camping stoves.

Waste: Nothing must be left behind in trails or campsites.