

Willis's Walkabouts

2003 SOUTH AMERICAN SPECIAL

Southern Chile and Argentina: 6-8 Weeks: October - December 2003

Second Draft of First, October-December trip (by Dr. Weston) with Provisional Itinerary

There is no other tour like this on the travel market. Instead of a fixed itinerary, there is a general outline and a rough indication of how much time each section will take. If one area turns out to be especially good, we have the flexibility to spend extra time there. Transport during the trip will include airplanes, buses, taxis, boats and, of course, your own feet while carrying a backpack. We will do a number of walks of up to 10 days duration. People on most of the other tours being offered in South America do not use local transportation or carry a pack for more than two days, if at all.

We are offering two trips, one beginning in late October and a second beginning in late November. These notes describe the first trip.

Why use a Darwin-based firm for a South American tour?

On pages 69 and 70 of the 1998 edition of the Lonely Planet book, *Trekking in the Patagonian Andes*, the author lists 11 companies from five countries which offer treks in the region. Nine are listed without comment. One is listed as "recommended", one as "highly recommended." Willis's Walkabouts is the latter.

On our trips you do some of the lesser known walks, walks which take you away from the crowds that walk the well known tracks each season. Every trip is a mix of walks we have done before and walks that we are doing for the first time. We offer a wilderness experience of a kind not offered by more mainstream operators.

This trip will be led by Arthur Weston. Operating since 1977 as **Nangar Wilderness Expeditions and Natural History Field Trips**, based in Perth, Arthur has organised and led trips in various parts of Latin America, including our 1997-98 and late 1999 trips to this region.

Willis's Walkabouts trips to South America began in 1990 and have included:

- an eight week trip to Chile and Argentina from November 1990 to January 1991,
- a ten week trip to the same areas, plus Peru, from December 1993 through February 1994,
- nine weeks in the same areas in December-January 1995-96,
- ten weeks in Peru, Bolivia, Northern Chile and Argentina in October-December 1996,
- eight weeks in southern Chile and Argentina in late 1997-98,
- six weeks in southern Chile and Argentina in December-January 1998-99,
- eight weeks in southern Chile and Argentina in October-December 1999,
- four weeks in Peru in August-September 2000,
- eight weeks in southern Chile and Argentina from November 2001 to January 2002, and
- eight weeks in southern Chile and Argentina from November 2002 to January 2003.

Our knowledge of Spanish and of many of the local customs will allow us to act as interpreters so that the group can eat in the same restaurants and stay in the same hotels as the locals. These will be reasonably priced, comfortable hotels, hostels and guest houses where we can relax and have a break between walks. This allows those taking part to gain a more intimate feeling for the culture and the people than is possible on most tours. We handle the hassles leaving you free to enjoy your holiday.

Why go with someone else?

Our trips are not for everyone. They go off the beaten track. No two itineraries are the same. Every trip includes visits to places we have never been before. There are many local and international operators who can give you something more mainstream. Choose one of them if you would prefer:

- to do the “big name” walks like the Torres del Paine circuit in the peak season or
- if you want to go with an operator who does the same thing over and over again or
- if you prefer a certain itinerary to a flexible one that can change with circumstances or
- if you don't want to walk with a guide who has not done some of the walks on the trip or
- if you don't want to explore places untouched by other tour operators.

When to go

The early trip will begin in late October and end in early December. The late trip will begin in the last week of November. Both have advantages. On the early trip you are likely to see more wildflowers and can visit some of the more popular areas and walks without the crowds which come later in the year. We have more flexibility with accommodation as it should not be necessary to book most places far in advance. On the later trip, you can visit areas which are inaccessible early in the season due to snow covered passes or flooding from spring melts. Also, it would be possible for a person to be a participant in most of one trip as well as all of the other.

If you want to book, you need to let us know which date and itinerary you would prefer.

The Itinerary

The following itinerary is based on flying to South America from Australia. People from other countries can meet the group in Santiago or at any other point on the itinerary. The dates are early enough so we can miss most of the peak season crowds. The start dates can still be adjusted somewhat to suit those who book early.

The trip will be divided into a number of sections any of which may be done on its own. The following summary of the draft itinerary gives a general outline of the places you might visit and hints at others. This itinerary is not final and is subject to change depending on such things as weather, local political conditions and the interests of the group.

A **provisional** day-by-day itinerary is at the end of these notes.

Section 1 Santiago to Bariloche (two weeks)

In Chile, we plan to walk in Nahuelbuta park west of Angol and in Huerquehue, Villarica and other reserves and parks near Pucon, and in Argentina we plan to walk in Lanin and Nahuel Huapi parks. At least two of the walks will be overnight, and if time permits, we will also do shorter walks in other national parks and reserves along the way.

Nahuelbuta is a relatively little-visited national park, with one of the few remnants left of coastal range forest: principally of unlogged *Araucaria* and *Nothofagus* trees draped with old-man's-beard (*Usnea*) lichens. Pucon, beautifully situated on the southern shore of Lago Villarica and at the northern base of Volcan Villarica, is the leading centre for environmental activism in southern Chile as well the jumping off point for excursions into several nearby varied and scenic parks and reserves.

Nahuel Huapi is the oldest and one of the largest parks in Argentina, full of spectacular scenery and mountain trails, a number of which will be covered in snow when we are there. There are a number of mountain huts which we may be able to use (especially useful if the weather turns bad). Lanin is also large, spectacular and old (created in 1937), with a volcano, Lanin, that is almost a thousand metres higher than Villarica.

Previous trips to Villarica have included a weather-dependent climb up the volcano where we stood in the snow, watching bubbling red lava below. This time we may think about climbing Lanin instead, or as well; it is probably an easier, though longer, climb than Villarica. We have also done a number of lovely day walks in Huerquehue.

Section 2 Bariloche to Coyhaique (almost two weeks)

After replenishing our [non-fresh] food supplies in Bariloche, we plan to take the scenic lakes route (a combination of boats and buses) westward to the west end of Lago Todos los Santos, Chile, then travel south to backpack in Yosemite-Valley-like Cochamo Valley and to a series of national parks and reserves along the Austral (Pan-American) Highway between Caleta Gonzalo and Coyhaique, east of the Gulfs of Ancud and Corcovado. We plan to walk and backpack in Pumalin, Quelat, Rio Simpson and as many other parks and areas as time permits. Pumalin Park, south of Hornopiren and Caleta Gonzalo, is the creation of American Doug Tomkins, who founded the Esprit clothing company. He used the money he made from the business to buy and preserve a large part of the threatened temperate rainforest along the Austral Highway. Hopefully, we will be able to do at least one walk there this year.

Section 3 Coyhaique to El Calafate (two and a half weeks)

During the drive to Cochrane, there will be several stops of a few hours to a few days to explore parts of Cerro Castillo N.P., Valle Leones, Lago Los Leones, Campo de Hielo Norte and other areas. The Willis's Walkabouts 2001 walk in Cerro Castillo was one of the most spectacular walks we did in eight weeks. It was also the most strenuous day walk of that trip.

We will spend several days walking in the Cochrane area, somewhere between the southern end of the Campo de Hielo Norte and Cerro San Lorenao (3,706m), the highest peak in Argentine Patagonia, and driving to Villa O'Higgins, the southern terminus of Austral Highway.

We hope to ferry from Villa O'Higgins, Chile, south to El Maipu, Argentina, or somewhere else from where we can, hopefully, backpack to Lago del Desierto, in Los Glaciares N.P., where we will spend about a week. The logistics of the part of the trip between Villa O'Higgins and Lago del Desierto are complicated, but, if we can work them out, it will make an excellent walk. We will then continue on past the lake to the village of Chalten, the long way - via the base of the Fitzroy massif, and, the day after we bus to El Calafate, where the trip officially ends.

This trip ends in El Calafate, Argentina, which has a new, enlarged airport with frequent flights (at least within Argentina) instead of in Puerto Natales, which has no airport.

What does it cost?

Our fee is \$1600 for either full trip. This covers the guide, who also acts as organiser and cook. There will be an additional fee of \$10 per day for the evening meals we provide on the walks or cook in guest houses if we stay in places with cooking facilities. In addition, you will have to pay your share of all the expenses for food, accommodation, transport, etc.

The guide will pay the same fees and fares as everyone else and will keep these as low as reasonable comfort, reliability and availability will allow. Our accommodation will cost anywhere from about US\$15 to US\$40 per night. Expect most of the places to be toward the low end of the range, but it might be nice to enjoy a bit of luxury once in a while.

Using a value of 55-60 cents US for the Australian dollar (though the value in mid-June is 66 cents), estimates of the costs (in Australian dollars) for our seven and a half week trip follow (restaurant meals, accommodation and transport estimates are very rough).

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Return airfare | \$2200 |
| Walkabouts fee | 1600 |
| Park & camping fees | 200 |
| Evening meals on walks | 300 |
| Other meals on walks | 150 |
| Restaurant meals | 500 |
| Other transport | 750 |
| <u>Accommodation</u> | <u>600</u> |
| Total | \$6300 |

With luck, we'll be able to shave a bit off the total above. If the Aussie dollar drops further, it will cost more. If it comes back, it will cost less. We do not expect the whole trip to cost less than \$4500 or more than \$7000. This does not include any souvenir shopping you may do.

What do you get for the fee?

You get expert advice on the things to bring. You get an interpreter. You get someone who will handle the mundane details of making the travel arrangements, doing the food shopping for the walks, organising accommodation etc. You get someone who will provide all the group equipment (billies, stoves, etc) and who will cook all the evening meals on the walks allowing you to relax and enjoy yourself. You also get a small, like-minded group of people with whom you can share your experiences and expenses. Hiring a vehicle as part of a group costs far less than hiring it with only two or three.

Note 1. Some of what you get for your money is not very visible. For example, prior to one of the long walks, you might spend a day relaxing or sightseeing while the guide goes out and hits the supermarkets, then spends an hour (or two or three) doing the final organising for the meals on the walk. Or perhaps, the guide (or interpreter) might have to take time out to assist someone with something like making a phone call or sending a fax while you are free to do whatever appeals. If you can't see the value in services like these, you are unlikely to feel that you are getting real value for your fee.

Note 2. Prices are subject to change.

Note 3. A large majority of those who have taken part in our South American tours are Australian so all prices are quoted in Australian dollars. We have had several people from other countries take part by making their own travel arrangements to and from the start and finish points.

Note 4. All bushwalks are subject to change due to weather conditions. If we get really foul weather at the start of a walk, we may wish to abort it, at least temporarily. If we get really foul weather later on, we may have to cut a route short. If we get really foul weather late in a walk, we could miss a connection.

On a walk in Torres del Paine in late 2001, bad weather one day kept us from moving to a base camp from which we had hoped to be able to reach the southern ice cap. (We almost got there on a day walk the following day.) This left us with an extra day which some felt was wasted on a less spectacular day walk. **Whatever we plan, the weather has the final say.**

What you don't get?

You do not get a guide who will hold your hand and make every decision for you. **You** must be prepared to take on a much greater degree of responsibility than on most other tours. All members of the group, including the guide, are expected to work together in establishing how the group will function, who will lead on the walks, who will look after the stragglers, etc.

A trip such as this cannot work unless everyone helps out. A few examples may help you understand just how important this is.

Hypothermia is another potential problem. A person who becomes hypothermic is unlikely to realise it. In an extreme case, he or she may have to be physically restrained from doing something which a rational person would describe as insane. There is no way that any one person, no matter how experienced, can look after an entire group 100% of the time. No matter how careful the guide may be, there is always a possibility that he will be the one to get injured or otherwise incapacitated.

Accepting the responsibility that goes with a trip like this is part of the experience we offer. It is one of the things that sets our trips apart from the vast majority of "adventure" trips on the market. For those prepared to accept this responsibility, it makes the experience doubly rewarding. Those who are not prepared to accept such responsibility would be better off going on a "normal" tour.

Is it for you?

This trip is not for the average tourist. We can neither control nor predict the weather, only accept it as it comes. If you do not want to take the necessary responsibility and/or you cannot obtain the necessary equipment, it is not for you. Good physical fitness and a good mental attitude are both necessary.

Terrain and difficulty. Some of the walking will be relatively easy. Some may be quite difficult. Our walks will include everything from easy relatively flat trails to scrambling up or down steep hills covered in thick scrub with no sign of a track. Even on some of the trails, the path can be quite broken and involve scrambling up and down over boulders and/or loose rocks of all sizes. If you have never carried a pack on an overnight walk, have never walked off trail, have never camped in cold, windy and wet conditions, it will be harder for you to cope with the likely conditions than for a person who has had the relevant experience. As an example, one of our clients who could happily cover more ground than anyone else in the group on easy terrain was the slowest on the rougher ground. Past experience has shown us that a fit, experienced 70 year old may cope better than a fitter 25 year old who does not have experience in coping with adverse conditions.

Mental attitude. If you are goal oriented rather than experience oriented, you would probably be better off going with someone else. Picture yourself in the following situations, both of which occurred on one of our recent trips.

- We planned to do a walk which would take us to a base camp from which we hoped to visit the southern ice cap. We got to a hut a day's walk from our proposed camp. The following day it was raining and foggy so we decided to remain where we were. This did not leave us enough time to continue to our proposed camp for two nights so we did a long day walk the following day. This left us with one extra day. Some were content to relax and do short walks near the hut. Some felt that this time was wasted and that we should never have planned the longer walk.

- On another walk, we had allowed for sitting out at least one day's bad weather. We never got it and finished up with a day to spare half a day's walk from town. The weather was good. Most of the group were content to relax and enjoy their surroundings. Some could not wait to get back to town.

If you would have been happy to relax and enjoy your surrounds in both cases, our trips could be just what you are looking for. If not, then you might be better off on a different type of tour.

The dates

Peak tourist season in southern Chile and Argentina runs from late December through January. Every year the popular places get more and more crowded. This is, however, the best time for some people to travel. The proposed start dates have been chosen to allow us to avoid most of the crowds while still having a good chance of getting decent weather and reasonable airfares.

A Final Caution

Do not expect everything to run like clockwork. Such things do not happen in South America. If you want to get maximum value for your money, you can go off and go sightseeing or simply relax while the guide does the food shopping or standing in line for tickets etc. Or, if you wish, you are welcome to join him while he does these things.

There will be occasional days between sections where you will be left to your own devices while the guide slows down and relaxes a bit and catch up on the organising. Based on past experience, things will run more smoothly if the guide does this.

Conditions

1. A deposit of \$200 is payable on booking. This will be refunded in full if five people have not booked by 20 July. Final payment is due by 1 August.
2. Cancellation fees are \$200 before June, \$500 before 1 July, \$1000 before 1 August and the full \$1600 after that.
3. All participants are responsible for obtaining the necessary passport and visas and must have some form of travel insurance.

A Final Note: Antarctica

If you have time on your hands at the end of the trip combined with a desire to see Antarctica, it is likely that you can arrange a 7-8 day cruise from Ushuaia in southern Argentina. Empty places often become available at substantial discounts. In early 1996, the standard standby cost was US\$2000. One of our clients was offered a trip for US\$2500 in 2001. In January 2003, it was almost impossible to find a place. If you are interested in this, you need to be prepared to leave our trip a few days early and/or spend an extra week, possibly slightly longer, waiting in Ushuaia.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Russell Willis

The next two pages are a reference list compiled by Dr Weston. The final page is a provisional day by day itinerary.

Reference List compiled by Dr Arthur Weston

Five general references relevant to Patagonia that are available in Australia (there are others) and which you may find helpful are:

- Lonely Planet guides: *Trekking in the Patagonian Andes* (Second Edition, 1998; it is rumoured that the third edition will be out later this year), *Chile & Easter Island* (Fifth Edition, 2000) and *Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay* (Fourth Edition, 2002),
- Bradt Travel Guides book *Chile and Argentina, The Bradt Trekking Guide* (Fifth Edition, 2001),
- Neilson, D. (1999). *Patagonia: Images of a Wild Land*. Snowgum Press, Emerald, Victoria (ISBN 0 9585753 0 4) dneilson@snowgumpress.com.au

Two other, Argentinian books, in both Spanish and English and probably very difficult to find in Australia, are:

- Alonso, M.A. (1998). *Trekking en Chalten & Lago del Desierto*. Zagier & Urruty, Ushuaia and Buenos Aires. zagier@wam.com.ar
- Kirbus, F.B. and Schulte, J. (1996). *Patagonia*. Capuz Varela Editores SRL, Buenos Aires.

There are several books and guides to flora and fauna. The most comprehensive ones are large and expensive (and mostly not listed below, though there are references to some of them in the books listed below). There are no field guides to flora for the areas we will be in that are adequate, but the following references (most of which I have) may be useful (there are undoubtedly now newer editions of some of these and additional guides):

- Alvarez, Orlando Dollenz. (1995). *Los Arboles y Bosques de Magallanes*. Ediciones de la Universidad de Magallanes, Punta Arenas, Chile.
- Araya, Braulio and Chester, S. (1993). *The Birds of Chile: A Field Guide*. Wandering Albatross, San Mateo, California. (English, Spanish[?])
- Brion, Cecilia, Puntieri, J., Grigera, D. and Calvelo, S. (1998). *Flora de Puerto Blest y sus alrededores: Segunda edicion*. EDUCO, Buenos Aires (Educo@uncoma.edu.ar). (Spanish)
- Chester, Sharon R. (1995). *Birds of Chile: Illustrated in Color*. Wandering Albatross, San Mateo, California. (English, Spanish[+/-])
- Couve, Enrique and Vidal-Ojeda, C. (1999). *Whee to watch Birds in Torres del Paine National Park, Chile: An Identification Guide*. Fantastico Sur, Punta Arenas, Chile (www.chileaustral.com/birding). (English)
- de la Vega, Santiago G. (1999). *Patagonia: Las Leyes del Bosque*. Contactgo Silvestre ediciones, Buenos Aires (sdelavega@interlink.com.ar). (Spanish)
- Garay N., Gladys and Guineo N., O. (1995). *Conociendo La Flora y Montana de Torres del Paine: Primera Edicion*. Garay and Guineo (?), Punta Arenas, Chile. (Spanish, English; there is a newer or combined edition of this book)
- Goodall, Rae Natalie Prosser. (1979). *Tierra del Fuego: Tercera edicion*. Ediciones Shanamaiim, Buenos Aires and Ushuaia, Argentina. (Spanish, English)
- Guineo, Oscar. (1999). *Fauna de Magallanes en Peligro*. Oscar Guineo N., Punta Arenas, Chile. (Spanish and English).
- Hoffmann J., Adriana E. (1994). *Flora Silvestre de Chile: Zona Araucana: Arboles, arbustos y enredaderas lenosas: Tercera Edicion Revisada*. Ediciones Fundacion Claudio Gay, Santiago (?), Chile. (Spanish)
- Hoffmann J., Adriana E. (1979). *Flora Silvestre de Chile: Zona Central*. Ediciones Fundacion Claudio Gay, Santiago (?), Chile. (Spanish)
- Macadam, Viv. (1996). *Guia de Terreno Cani: "Vision que Transforma"*. Fundacion Lahuen, Santiago. (Spanish and separate English translation)
- Masco, Mercedes, Oliva, G., Kofalt, R. and Humano, G. (1998). *Flores Nativos de la Patagonia Austral: Una seleccion de especies silvestres con potencial ornamental de Santa Cruz y Tierra del Fuego*. Instituto Nacional de Tecnologia Agropecuaria, Rio Gallegos, Argentina. (Spanish and some English)
- Moore, D.M. (1983). *Flora of Teirra del Fuego*. Anthony Nelson, England (and Field Museum, Chicago ?). (English).
- Munoz Sch., Melica, Munez C., H. and Vanez V., J. (Eds). (1996). *Libro Rojo de los Sitios Proiritarios para la Conservacion de la Diversidad Biologica en Chile: Primera edicion*. Corporacion Nacional Forestal Gerencia de Operaciones, Santiago. (Spanish)
- Ramacciotti, Graciela. (1996). *Flores y Frutos Silvestres Australes: una mirada por Tierra del Fuego: Primera edicion*. Ramaciotti, Ushuaia, Argentina.

- Rapoport, Eduardo H., Ladio, A.H. and Sanz, E.H. (1999). *Plantas Nativas Comestibles de la Patagonia Andina, argentino-chilena, Parte I*. Ediciones de Imaginaria, S. C. de Bariloche, Argentina. (Spanish).
- Rapoport, Eduardo H., Margutti, L.S. and Sanz, E.H. (1997). *Plantas Silvestres Comestibles de la Patagonia Andina, argentino-chilena, Parte I*. Ediciones de Imaginaria, Bariloche, Argentina. (Spanish).
- Straneck, Roberto and Carrizo, G. (??). *Lista de Campo para Las AVes Argentinas*. Editorial L.O.L.A., Buenos Aires. (Spanish, English, German)
- Tell, Guillermo, Izaguirre, I. and Quintana, R.D. (1997). *Flora y Fauna Patagonicas: Primera Edicion*. Ediciones Caleuche, Buenos Aires (?).
- Wilcox, Ken. (1996). *Chile's Native Forest, a Conservation Legacy*. Ancient Forest International, Redway, California, Northwest Wild Books, Bellingham, Washington, and North Atlantic Books. (English)
- Zegers, Claudio Donoso. (1997). *Arboles Nativos de Chile: Guia de Reconocimiento: Octava edicion*. Marisa Cuneo Ediciones, Valdivia, Chile. (Spanish, English)
- Zegers, Claudio Donoso and Garcia, C.R. (1994). *Arbustos Nativos de Chile: Guia de Reconocimiento: Segunda edicion*. Marisa Cuneo Ediciones, Valdivia, Chile. (Spanish, English)

Hopefully, I'll be able to annotate these references later.

The Bradt guide listed above has some information on vegetation, flora and fauna, as well as descriptions of the routes we will be travelling along, the parks we will be visiting and almost all the walks we will doing. It is more recent than the Lonely Planets trekking guide but, unfortunately, not so easy to find.

Some of the tourist maps I have found to be most useful for Chile and adjacent parts of Argentina are in the series J.L.M. Mapas Ruterros, by J.L.M. Cartografia, Gral. del Canto #105 of. 1506, Fono/Fax 236 48 08, Providencia, Santiago, Chile. Map Number 17 is *Camino Austral: Laguna San Rafael*.

ASWeston 17.7.03

Southern Chile and Argentina 2003

Trip begins Wed., Oct 22, in Santiago, Chile and ends Fri., Dec. 5, in El Calafate, Argentina

Provisional Itinerary 1

Section 1 Santiago to Bariloche (14 days)

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Day 1 | W | Oct 22 | In Santiago, Chile |
| 2 | Th | 23 | Overnight train to Angol, 130km N of Temuco. |
| 3 | F | 24 | Travel (market bus and taxi?) to Vegas Blancas (29km), then to Nahuelbuta N.P. (7km), for walks in its remnant araucaria and <i>Nothofagus</i> forests. Return to Angol. |
| 4 | Sa | 25 | Bus from Angol to Temuco (132km), then, a few hours later, to Pucon (112km). |
| 5-7 | Su-Tu | 26-28 | Bushwalking in the area: e.g. Volcan Villarica, Villarica and Huerquehue National Parks, and the two indigenous reserves Cani and Kira-Kira. |
| 8 | W | 29 | Early bus from Pucon, Chile to Seccional Tromen, Lanin N.P., Argentina (~50km?), just past the Chile-Argentina border (Paso Mamuil), between Pucon and Junin de los Andes. Walk to Lago Tromen or to Refugio CAJA on the northern slopes of Volcan Lanin (3,776m, with an optional climb to the summit on Day 10, weather permitting). |
| 9 | Th | 30 | Lanin N.P., camping near Lago Tromen (or the seccional) or in the refugio. |
| 10 | F | 31 | Bus to San Martin de Los Andes (~100km?), then to San Carlos de Bariloche (~100km?). |
| 11-14 | Sa-Tu | Nov 1-4 | Bushwalking [backpacking] in Nahuel Huapi N.P., e.g. along the Circuito Chico if the snow is not too deep, with 3 nights in refugios and/or tents; the last night will be in Bariloche. |

Section 2 Bariloche to Coyhaique (13 days, or, if not doing Section 1, then an optional extra 5 days)

[Optional: **meet in Bariloche on Friday, October 31** followed by:

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| [4 days | Sa-Tu | Nov 1-4 | Bushwalking [backpacking] in Nahuel Huapi N.P., e.g. along the Circuito Chico if the snow is not too deep, with 3 nights in refugios and/or tents; the last night will be in Bariloche.] |
| 15-16 | W-Th | Nov 5-6 | Boat, foot, boat, bus from Bariloche, Argentina to Petrohue, Chile, at the W end of Lago Todos los Santos (~130km?). |
| 17 | F | 7 | Bus from Petrohue to La Ensenada, on Lago Llanquihue (16km), then to Cochamo (48km). Backpack from the Cochamo R. bridge up (E) the Cochamo Valley, reputed to be Chile's counterpart of Yosemite Valley, to the La Junta Outback Camp (18km). |
| 18 | Sa | 8 | Day walk to hanging valley along the nature trail (~15km?). |
| 19 | Su | 9 | Morning walk back down to the Cochamo R bridge (18km), then by bus to Puelo (~25km?) or to Cochamo (4km). |
| 20-22 | M-W | 10-12 | Continue south by road (and ferry?) to Caleta Gonzalo (then Pumalin Park), if possible; otherwise, (1) by plane to Chaiten (then Pumalin Park) or (2) by new road (and ferry?) to El Bolsen and Esquel, Argentina, and Futaleufu, Chile (skipping Pumalin) or (3) bus (from Cochamo) to Puerto Montt, then ferry to Chaiten (then Pumalin). |
| 23 | Th | 13 | Pumalin (or Futaleufu) to Puerto Puyuguapi (284km or 226km). |
| 24 | F | 14 | Pto. Puyuguapi to Coyhaique (~200km?), with a stop in Quelat N.P. to walk to views of glaciers and waterfalls. |
| 25-27 | Sa-M | 15-17 | 3-Day walk in Rio Simpson N.R. followed by night in Coyhaique. |

Section 3 Coyhaique to El Calafate (18 days, or, if not doing Section 2, then an optional extra 4 days)

[Optional : **meet in Coyhaique on Friday, November 15**, followed by:

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| [3 days | Sa-M | 15-17 | 3-Day walk in Rio Simpson N.R. followed by night in Coyhaique.] |
| 28-29 | Tu-W | 18-19 | Bus or minibus to Villa Cerro Castillo (108km), and walks in Cerro Castillo N.R. |
| 30-32 | Th-Sa | 20-22 | Bus or minibus to Puente Leones (175km), at the western end of L. Gral. Carrera, possibly with a stop at Puerto Rio Tranquilo to see the stunning marble caves south of there; then to backpack up Valle Leones to a northeastern edge of the North Patagonian Icesheet (Campo de Hielo Norte), followed by a drive to Cochrane (~80km?). |
| 33-36 | Su-W | 23-26 | Bushwalk/backpack in Cerro Cochrane (Cerro San Lorenzo) area and/or the abutting the southeastern edge of the ice sheet. |
| 37 | Th | 27 | Minibus or taxi from Cochrane to Villa O'Higgins (220km). |
| 38 | F | 28 | Ferry from Villa O'Higgins, Chile, south to El Maipu, Argentina, or somewhere else from where we could, hopefully, backpack to Lago Desierto and into Los Glaciares N.P. |
| 39-44 | Sa-Th | 29-Dec 4 | Los Glaciares N.P. expedition, 7 days, 6 nights, last night in Chaltén. |
| 45 | F | 5 | Bus to El Calafate, Argentina (236km). |