



ROUTE DETAILS

Southern Chile The Complete Route Experience



Day 1 — Santiago to Caleta Duao

From the Andes to the Pacific

The trip begins in Santiago and heads south toward the Aculeo Valley, where urban scenery gives way to farmland, vineyards and rolling hills. The route then crosses toward Pichilemu, one of Chile's best-known surf towns, before continuing south along the coast to Caleta Duao. This first day introduces the group to Chile's central countryside,

- Pacific views and traditional fishing culture. Near Pichilemu, riders may see black-sand beaches, cliffs and powerful surf around Punta de Lobos. The coastal climate is generally temperate, with dry afternoons but cool mornings and evenings; fog and wind are always possible near the ocean. Pichilemu's summer temperatures are typically mild rather than hot.

What to expect: Flowing country roads, ocean winds, changing visibility and an arrival centered on fresh seafood.

Day 2 — Caleta Duao to Concepción

A less-traveled Pacific coastline

The route continues south through the coastal areas of Maule and Ñuble, using secondary roads rather than the main highway whenever conditions allow. Fishing villages, pine forests, farmland and long views over the Pacific define the day. Sections near Cobquecura and Buchupureo are among the most scenic, with rugged beaches, offshore rocks and a quieter, more isolated atmosphere than central Chile's better-known coastal towns. Weather can change quickly: coastal fog, light rain and strong winds are possible even in warmer months. Marine birds are common, and sea lions may sometimes be observed near rocky coastal colonies or fishing areas.

What to expect: Remote coastal pavement, frequent curves, strong winds, cool air and long stretches away from major towns.

Day 3 — Concepción to Valdivia

Forest roads into the deep south

- This is the longest and most demanding riding day of the southern itinerary. Leaving Concepción, the route travels through the coastal landscapes of Biobío and La Araucanía, passing areas associated with forestry, Mapuche culture and small rural communities. As the group moves south, vegetation becomes denser and greener, with native forest increasingly replacing the drier landscapes of central Chile. Arrival in Valdivia introduces a city built around rivers, wetlands and German-influenced gastronomy. Rain is possible at any time, and waterproof equipment should always be accessible. Valdivia's surroundings support pudú, foxes, güiñas and many forest birds, although most mammals remain elusive.

What to expect: The longest saddle day, unpredictable weather, forest scenery and a gradual immersion into the Valdivian rainforest.

Day 4 — Valdivia to Puerto Varas

Rivers, farmland and the volcano district

The road leaves Valdivia through green farmland, wetlands and secondary roads of the Los Ríos and Los Lagos regions. Lakes, rivers and native forest become increasingly dominant, while the Andes slowly appear to the east.

- On a clear day, the volcanic silhouettes around Puerto Varas provide one of the trip's most memorable arrivals. The climate is humid and changeable, with sunshine, low cloud and rain sometimes occurring within the same afternoon. Native forest in this broader region provides habitat for pudú, güiña, black woodpeckers and the monito del monte.

What to expect: Cooler temperatures, frequent weather changes, lush vegetation and major volcanic views when the sky is clear.

Day 5 — Puerto Varas to Puerto Varas

The gateway to Patagonia

- The final riding day explores Ralún, the Reloncaví Estuary, Cochamó, Puelo and La Arena before returning to Puerto Varas. It is the most classically Patagonian stage of the journey: steep forested mountains, glacier-shaped valleys, fjord-like water and dense Valdivian rainforest. The route includes a thermal stop near the estuary, creating a premium pause in the middle of the day. Cochamó is known for huge granite walls rising above ancient forest, while the initial sector of the Carretera Austral introduces the group to Patagonia's landscapes without requiring a long expedition. Rain is common and conditions may be wet even when Puerto Varas starts clear. The area supports pudú, huillín, güiña, kingfishers and black woodpeckers.

What to expect: The most spectacular scenery, possible rain, wet pavement, ferries, hot springs and a strong sense of entering Patagonia.