

Volcano Ski Tour

Synopsis:

Peak ascents of 4 volcanoes (view lava in the crater of Villarrica) on and near the border of Chile and Argentina. Although the ascents are technically moderate, they are very physically demanding with full days of skiing. It is best to bring all your own ski / telemark / snowboard gear. This tour is for strong climbers. The weather in Patagonia does not guarantee reaching the summit. In the event of lousy weather, ski the bases and ridges of the volcanoes, other treed backcountry and resorts of the area.

Days of skiing: 8

Hotspots: Copahue, Malalcahuello, Geometricas and/or Posones.

Lodging: Hosterias and hotels.

Skills: Intermediate to Advanced.

Included: All breakfasts during the trip, transportation from Neuquen, Argentina to Pucon, Chile, lift tickets on lousy days as well as one dinner in Caviahue, Argentina.

Day 1:

Arrival:

Arrive to Neuquen, Argentina via Buenos Aires. In the afternoon, meet the ATAC trip leader and other trip members and drive to the snow covered town of Caviahue. Stay at a hotel in the middle of town.

Day 2-3:

Volcan Copahue:

In the morning, drive 10 minutes to the ski resort at the base of Volcano Copahue (2969 meters). Skin to the top of the volcano. After exploring the crater lake near the summit, ski back to town. In the afternoon, soak in the hot spring baths. This is your warm up day. On day 3, explore the source of the hot springs in Copahue and the numerous ridges in the area. In the afternoon, head South down the road from Caviahue to some cabins at the base of some gorgeous ridges for the next day's skiing.

Day 4-5:

Caviahue South:

Explore the ridges South of Caviahue on the hunt for powder and steeps. In the afternoon of day 5, cross the border from Argentina to Chile. Stay the evening in the town of Lonquimay.

Day 6:

Lonquimay :

In the morning, drive 30 minutes up the road to the small 2-lift resort of Corralco. Attempt the summit of Lonquimay (2865 meters) and ski down. This is the shortest of the volcano climbs for the trip. Spend the rest of the afternoon at the lifts before heading to the hotel at the base of Llaima in the late afternoon.

Day 7:

Llaima:

Starting in the morning, take the ski lift to the top of the ski resort. Start climbing from there. Explore the icy crater at the summit (3125 meters) before skiing back down. In the evening, drive to Pucon, Chile. Stay at Hosteria Ecole.

ATAC Patagonia

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Day 8:

Villarrica:

In the morning, head up to the ski resort and take a lift to the top. Continue with skins and skis to the top of the volcano (2840 meters). If conditions allow, see lava bubbling in the crater at the top. Ski down the other side of the volcano and get a ride to the Termas Geometricas in the afternoon. In the evening, head back to Pucon.

Day 9:

Additional Day:

Assuming that conditions aren't perfect for the entire trip, factor in this day for as an extra day in any of the locations above.

Day 10:

Temuco --> Santiago --> Home:

Leaving from Temuco, Chile, fly through Santiago, Chile on the way home.

Optional Extension:

Start your trip with a week of skiing at Las Leñas or Bariloche. Let us know if that interests you.

Note: We do our best to adhere to the schedule listed above, however this itinerary is subject to change and we just might decide that the snow is better somewhere else.

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