Bicycle Tours in Argentina: Bicycling Patagonia's Lakes District Plus! The Island of Chiloé

Overview

Join us on our 10-day Bicycling Patagonia's Lakes District Plus! the Island of Chiloé from Argentina to Chile tour where we will cycle paved roads across the Continental Divide in the Andes, from Argentina into Chile. At this latitude, the mountains are much gentler than the severe Peruvian and Ecuadoran landscapes that come to mind when you think of the Andes. Our route winds from the high plateau setting of San Carlos de Bariloche along Andean lakes, down through the valleys of the border region and into Chile's Lake District. Cycle past conical volcanoes and snow capped Andean peaks, one of Chile's famous rushing rivers, and relax in the tranquil settings of our lovely hotels.

Tranquil fjords, wooden houses and churches, the rugged coastline of the Pacific: The Island of Chiloé, in northern Chilean Patagonia, is reminiscent of the landscapes in Scandinavia. Though it was inhabited long before the Spanish arrived in 1567, the island remained isolated from the commercial trade routes until the founding of the nearby port city Puerto Montt in 1853. During these three isolated centuries, a unique culture developed. The Chilote are of Spanish and indigenous Mapuche descent, and depend on their marine environment to support their way of life.

***If this sounds great but you prefer a shorter tour - check out our Bicycling Patagonia's Lakes District tour which features the first 7 days of this itinerary.***

Is cycling in South America for you? Check out our What to expect: Cycling in South America page.

Highlights

Chile's Lake District, Views of Osorno and Calbuco Volcanoes, Waterfalls on the Petrohué River, thermal pools, San Carlos de Bariloche, Chiloé Island, Wooden Churches, Penguins

Tour Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Includes</th>
<th>The usual plus... 10 days, 9 nights accommodation; bilingual tour leaders; 6 dinners with wine, 9 breakfasts, 4 (3 picnic) lunches; and the usual (see below).</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Countries</td>
<td>Argentina, Chile</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin/End</td>
<td>San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina / Puerto Montt, Chile (PMC). There may be a reciprocity entry fee for entering Argentina through an international airport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrive/Depart</td>
<td>San Carlos de Bariloche (BRC) / Puerto Montt, Chile</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Distance</td>
<td>403-416 kms (249 - 258 miles)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avg. Daily Distance</td>
<td>58-60 kms (36-37 miles) per riding day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tour Level</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>More Photos</td>
<td><img src="https://experienceplus.smugmug.com/gallery/33151073_zHjph3" alt="https://experienceplus.smugmug.com/gallery/33151073_zHjph3" /></td>
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Please Note: We may have small itinerary changes to this trip after you download this PDF document. If you have booked this trip and there are major changes, including changes to hotels or activities, we'll email you directly. However, you should always be sure to refer to the online itinerary for the most up-to-date trip information including arrival and departure tips before you depart for your trip:

**Bicycle Tours in Argentina: Bicycling Patagonia's Lakes District Plus! The Island of Chiloé**

### DATES & PRICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Single Supplement*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 7-16, 2019</td>
<td>USD$4895</td>
<td>USD$700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 15-24, 2020</td>
<td>USD$4895</td>
<td>USD$700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*We are happy to match solo travelers who would like to share a room with someone of the same gender. If no match exists, due to hotel pricing, we will charge 50% of the single supplement rate. This fee will be collected at the time of the final payment. If a roommate assignment is available this fee will be refunded at the conclusion of the tour.*
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ARRIVAL INFO

Meet your Tour Leaders and fellow travelers in the afternoon of Day 1 at the Day 1 hotel. Keep an eye out for a note at the front desk with more details.

Note:

As you are planning, remember that the hotels listed in our itineraries are our primary hotels and are - in rare cases - subject to change. Before you make arrangements, check with us if your tour departure is guaranteed. If your tour departure is out further than 6 months, please also check with us as there might be slight changes to the itinerary.

The below information will help you plan your arrival. For more tips or other routes, you might like Rome2Rio. The fare and timing information listed below is approximate.

We recommend flying into the Bariloche Airport (BRC).

A Note on Flights: For this trip, we recommend booking international flights into Buenos Aires’ International Airport (EZE) and out of Santiago, Chile (SCL). This means that you’ll also need to purchase domestic tickets from Buenos Aires Domestic Airport (AEP) to Bariloche (BRC). For information on transferring between Buenos Aires’ international and domestic airports see our information here.

How to arrive at the Day 1 Hotel:

If you arrive on Day 1: Complimentary ExperiencePlus! shuttle from the Bariloche Airport to the Day 1 Hotel at 4 p.m.. Please make your shuttle reservation by emailing us no later than 30 days prior to your tour start date.

If you are arriving a few days prior or earlier in the day on Day 1, the following options are available:

- Taxi, available just outside the airport exit (30-40 min, 450 to 560 pesos/US$12-15)
- Pre-arranged private transfer, contact us for arrangements (costs vary).

DEPARTURE INFO

On the final tour day, we shuttle you to the Puerto Montt Airport (PMC). Your spot on the shuttle is already saved. Schedule your flights at 2 p.m. or later. The transfer takes about 4 hours and the shuttle arrives around 11:30 a.m.

The below information will help you plan your departure. For more tips or other routes, you might like Rome2Rio. The fare and timing information listed below is approximate.

Puerto Montt Airport (PMC) has connections to Santiago, Chile (SCL), Buenos Aires International Airport (EZE), and Buenos Aires Domestic Airport (AEP) see LATAM

- Connecting in Santiago, Chile: LATAM offers several 1.5 hour direct flights to Santiago.
- Connecting in Buenos Aires: LATAM offers several flights daily to both Buenos Aires Airports - you may have to connect through Santiago). It is a 4.5 to 5.5 hour flight.
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- Most international flights from South America leave in the late evening, so it is possible to connect with an international flight the day the tour ends.
**Welcome to South America!**

**Highlights** Fit Bicycles, Welcome Dinner

We meet this afternoon at our hotel in San Carlos de Bariloche. We’ll offer a transfer from the Bariloche Airport at 4:00 p.m. for anyone flying in today. After checking in, take a walk down to the lake and enjoy the stunning views of the Andes. This mountain town is a year-round destination for outdoor lovers and is bustling in the summer. We’ll meet in the afternoon to fit bicycles. After the fitting we will go on a guided walk through Bariloche, that will take us to our restaurant for our welcome dinner.

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**Bariloche to Circuito Chico**

**Highlights** Bariloche, Cerro Campanario take the ski lift to the top of the Andes

After a brief shuttle out of town we’ll do a short test ride to make any necessary adjustments to your bike, before heading out on our longer route. Tiny back roads lead us through forests and offer stunning views of both Lago Nahuel Huapi and the smaller Lago Perito Moreno. Our ride ends at the base of Cerro Campanario. Check in to the hotel and then take a short walk to the chairlift and take a ride up to enjoy what some people call one of the top ten views in the world.

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**Villa La Angostura**

**Highlights** Lake Nahuel Huapi, Arrayanes National Park

Your day begins with a shuttle to Lake Nahuel Huapi. From there, you’ll set sail on a ferry and view Bariloche’s surrounding area from a different perspective as you float towards the Quetrihu? Peninsula. Upon docking you’ll have the option to walk a wooded path through Arrayanes National Park and some of the most pristine myrtle in South America. In the 1970s, this 300-year-old myrtle stand was awarded special protection under the Argentine government. Local legend has it that Walt Disney walked through this forest in the late 1930s and it inspired his choice for Bambi's cinnamon color as well as the film’s setting. Today our hike will take between 3 and 4 hours.
Crossing into Chile

**Highlights** Cardenal Samore Pass, thermal spas

Heading across the Andes we'll pedal from Lake Espejo over the Cardenal Samore Pass (4,311 feet) to our thermal resort at the Termas de Puyehue. We'll have a picnic lunch together before enjoying the downhill into Chile! Be sure to take time to relax in the hotel's thermal pools before dinner together this evening.

**DAY 4**

**Distance** 87 km (54 mi)  
**Gain** 1437 m (4713 ft)  
**Terrain** Very Hilly  
**Level** 5.0  
**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
**Lodging** Hotel Termas De Puyehue

Termas de Puyehue to Petrohue

**Highlights** Lake Llanquihue, views of Osorno and Calbuco volcanoes

You'll pedal around the east side of Lake Llanquihue today with stunning views of the snow-capped Osorno and Calbuco volcanoes. We'll stop for a picnic lunch and enjoy the tranquility as we pass quiet farmlands and small forests. Take the shuttle or bike the last 6 km of gravel to the hotel before relaxing at the edge one of Patagonia's beautiful lakes. Tonight we'll feast on a delicious home-cooked dinner together.

**DAY 5**

**Distance** 97 km (60 mi)  
**Gain** 1147 m (3762 ft)  
**Terrain** Rolling  
**Level** 4.5  
**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner  
**Lodging** Hotel Petrohue

Puerto Varas

**Highlights** Puerto Varas

Just after leaving our hotel, plan to visit the famous "Saltos de Petrohue," waterfalls. Continuing our ride around Lake Llanquihue we'll enjoy more great views of Osorno Volcano on our way to Puerto Varas, a small but bustling town with numerous craft stores and great walks along the lake. We have the inside scoop on Puerto Varas' best restaurant for dinner together this evening.

**DAY 6**

**Distance** 61 km (38 mi)  
**Gain** 439 m (1440 ft)  
**Terrain** Mostly flat  
**Level** 2.0  
**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner  
**Lodging** Hotel Solace
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Transfer to Chiloé Island

 Highlights Chiloé Island Penguins, Traditional Curanto Meal, Day off the bikes

From Puerto Varas we’ll shuttle and then ferry to the island of Chiloé continuing to the beautiful Pacific Coast and rock islands of Puñihuil, which just so happens to be the only place in Chile where you can view both Magellan and Humboldt Penguins. First we stop in Ancud for lunch together and then take a boat ride and around the small islands enjoying the antics of the penguins. Our early dinner is a special treat: Curanto - a unique seafood dish "pressure-cooked" underground. Afterward we'll continue to Castro, the capital of Chiloé and our home for the next two nights.

Bicycle Castro to Dalcahue and Achao

 Highlights Fishing villages, traditional Chilote boats

We pedal to the east coast of Chiloé today towards Dalcahue where we will then continue on and visit the village of Achao on the Island of Quinchao. Achao is the main town of the island and where the oldest church of Chiloé archipelago is located. We’ll take the van back to Castro.

Bicycle Chiloé National Park

 Highlights Quiet roads, lakeside bicycling and bird and wildlife viewing opportunities.

We pedal from Castro to Chiloé National Park on the Pacific Coast today to explore its ancient forests and learn about its history. This region was described by Charles Darwin on his famous voyage as rich in its diversity of temperate-zone forest plants. The park was created by the indigenous communities of Chiloé who have fought to protect the environment threatened by intensive deforestation. The national park is also home to rare species of animals endemic to Chile, such as picaflores (hummingbirds), kingfishers, huillines (sea otters), and pudúes (the smallest deer in the world). We'll visit with members of the indigenous community of Quilque over lunch with local products. Tonight we overnight in a unique stilt hotel in the small town of Cucao.
Shuttle to the Airport

**Highlights**  Tour ends

We board our shuttle and transfer back to our ferry and then on to the airport in Puerto Montt this morning. Expect to be at the airport in time to catch flights scheduled after 2 p.m.

**Level**  0.5

**Meals**  Breakfast
BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- Traveler Services: Assistance with arrival and departure, booking extra nights at your starting and ending tour hotels.
- Bicycle Tour Training programs designed specifically for your tour and fitness level.
- Tour Planning tips on what to pack, reading and movie lists, hotel recommendations and many other helpful tips.
- A complimentary gift of your choice.

ON YOUR BICYCLE TOUR

- Superb tour leaders who are great fun and also bilingual, bicultural experts, and avid cyclists. They're experienced to help you navigate confidently on and off the road.
- Comfortable lodging in 3-4 star hotels located in or near the town square with easy access to your favorite café (bar, gelato, espresso) of the day, always with a private bath.
- All breakfasts & at least half of your dinners each featuring multi-courses, fresh, seasonal specialties and wine or beer for dinners. See specific tour itineraries for details.
- On many tours we also have 1 or 2 lunches - see specific tour itineraries for details.
- Use of a high quality Titanium road bike, hybrid, or an aluminum tandem (aluminum road bikes or hybrid bikes in South America), geared specifically to cruise the flats and help ease you over the mountain. Our bikes come with an odometer so you can track your miles, an expandable rear rack pack to carry your stuff, and one water bottle that's yours to keep. Refer to our bikes page for full details.
- Full van support including: luggage shuttle, water and snack resupply, mechanical assistance, and rides for tired cyclists!
- Special events like wine tastings and cultural visits as described in the trip itinerary.
- All tips and gratuities at tour hotels and group meals.
- Unique and scenic routes, marked with our signature chalk dust arrows that ensure that you won't get lost and have the freedom to travel at your own pace.
- Daily mileage options—for those folks who just can't get enough cycling, we'll suggest optional routes off our marked course.
- Detailed route map, and informational sheets each day that tell you more about the area where you will be riding.
- All the fun (and more) that you expect from your vacation.

WHAT’S NOT INCLUDED

- Transportation to and from the bicycling tour including airfare, or train travel.
- Helmets - we ask that you bring your own to ensure the safest fit.
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- Tour Leader gratuity (with the exception of Expeditions)
- All tips and gratuities at tour hotels and group meals.

AFTER YOUR BICYCLE TOUR

- Deeply discounted tours with our Re-Cycle Program. Your fifth tour with us will be discounted by 50% of the average price of your previous four tours; your tenth tour will be discounted by 100% of the average price of your previous nine tours!

INCLUDED

- Transportation to and from the bicycling tour including airfare, or train travel.
- Helmets - we ask that you bring your own to ensure the safest fit.
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- Tour Leader gratuity (with the exception of Expeditions)
Travelers have different cycling abilities and preferences for the number of miles, elevation gain, and type of terrain they want on a bicycle tour. Our tour levels fall on a scale of 1 - 5. In addition to the overall tour level we have developed daily level summaries to provide an even more detailed look at what kind of cycling you can expect from each day on tour. You’ll find all of the details including mileage, elevation gain, terrain and level for each day of the itinerary to help you better understand what to expect from your tour.

**LEVEL 1 - 1.5**
This day will be mostly flat and the distance will rarely exceed 30 km. Level 1 - 1.5 tours are suitable for beginner cyclists, those traveling by bicycle for the first time, or multi-generational groups with a desire for a nice and easy bike tour with plenty of opportunities to stop and enjoy the scenery.

- **Average daily mileage:** 15-30km. Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Mostly flat with occasional gentle climbs at a grade of less than 3%, that are sustained for a maximum of 3km. There might be a steeper but short climb.

**LEVEL 2 - 2.5**
This day is ideal for riders newer to bicycle touring looking for a bit of a challenge, or for individuals who desire shorter days on the bike. On average, level 2 - 2.5 bike tours will ride 30-50 km per day on mostly rolling terrain.

- **Average daily mileage:** 30-50km. Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Mostly rolling terrain around 3%. Presents multiple 3% to 4% climbs. May present an occasional steeper climb.

**LEVEL 3 - 3.5**
Level 3 - 3.5 tours are for active individuals (who run, bike, swim etc. on a regular basis) with the desire to cover longer daily distances on the bicycle. These tours are a great workout when you're riding as you will average 50-70 km daily with total gain of 2,000-2,800 ft. There will be multiple 4-6% climbs throughout the tour.

- **Average daily mileage:** 50-70km. Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Multiple Climbs with grades of 4 - 6%.

**LEVEL 4 - 4.5**
Level 4 - 4.5 tours are for passionate cyclists or very active individuals. This level tour is great for cyclists looking to stay in shape and pedal hard they travel across regions or countries. Level 4 - 4.5 tours cover 70-90km daily with 2,800-3,600 ft of gain. Cyclists on a level 4 - 4.5 bicycle tour can expect multiple climbs, some climbs might be short and steep (6-8% for 1-3 km) while others may be sustained (6+ Km) at a 4-6% grade.

- **Average daily mileage:** 70-90km. Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Presents multiple steep climbs (6% to 8% grades), 1 to 3km long. Alternatively, 4 – 6% grades for 6 kilometers or more.

**LEVEL 5 (EXPEDITIONPLUS!)**
Our ExpeditionPlus! tours designed for strong riders looking for the challenge of riding across countries or continents. Long daily mileages means limited van support so we recommended these tours for riders who feel confident that they can ride every mile.

- **Average daily mileage:** 120 km (75 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Expect and be prepared for any and everything.

**REMEMBER**
It is almost always possible to adapt the day's ride to how you are feeling either by taking advantage of the support van, or asking tour leaders for additional mileage.

**Need More Miles?** On just about every day of every tour it is possible to add miles to the day. Just talk to your tour leader about the options.

**Need Fewer Miles?** If you aren't sure about your abilities or how much you want to ride remember the support van is available to offer snacks, encouragement, a lift over the next hill, or to the next hotel. You are on vacation and we're here to help make it perfect for you.

**Chalk Dust Arrows.** Remember, no matter what level of tour you choose ExperiencePlus! uses chalk dust arrows to mark our routes so riders can take the day at their own pace! Whether you prefer to stop at every gelateria, take a hundred photos a day, or push to achieve a new personal best you'll be happy on our tours.
BICYCLES
Your bike will be equipped with: a men's or women's saddle, a quick release style seat post adjustment, rear rack and expandable pack, pump, patch kit, spare tube, cable lock, cyclometer, rear lights, a water bottle cage (or two) and a water bottle (or two) and a bell. If you would like to bring your own pedals and shoes we recommend doing so—your tour leaders will install them during the bike fitting. We have flat pedals with or without cages available. For safety and hygiene reasons we recommend you bring your own helmet.

Daily Routine (Procedures and Logistics)

DAYSHEETS
Each day you’ll receive a daysheet with information on the day’s activities, meals and ride, which will be discussed during a briefing. The Daysheets also include Tour Leader phone numbers, hotel information and interesting historical and cultural information about sites that you may want to stop and see along the route. Your Tour Leaders will also post daily announcements in the hotel lobby with information about sightseeing in town or restaurant recommendations for dinners on your own as well as important information about breakfast, luggage down and "arrows down" time.

NAVIGATING ON TOUR
Daily we provide you with a highlighted route map. Of course, we also mark the route every day with our signature chalk dust arrows. Our arrows make navigating very easy—you may never need to look at the map! The arrows also allow you to ride at your own pace. There is no need to "keep up" with the group—this is your ride!

But what if it rains? What happens to the arrows? In a light rain, the arrows actually "set up" and become more permanent. In a heavy rain, they do wash away. If that happens, we’ll re-group to cycle together for those who want to continue cycling while those who prefer to stay dry can shuttle.

For the tech-loving riders out there we offer the opportunity to download GPS tracks of most tour routes to your personal GPS device using RideWithGPS.com.

VAN SUPPORT
Full van support including: luggage shuttle, water and snack resupply, mechanical assistance, and rides for tired cyclists!

HOTELS
We have carefully chosen all of our accommodations for their charm and location. They are typically small, family run hotels that offer you a glimpse into the local culture. We prefer hotels near interesting sites in the center of town located along the best cycling route in the area. Because many of the hotels are small not all of the rooms will be exactly the same. We keep this in mind and do our best to distribute rooms fairly by the end of the tour. Our itinerary lists our primary hotels. On rare occasions, listed hotels are subject to change.

MEALS AND RESTAURANTS
Breakfasts: we work hard to arrange complete breakfasts but some hotels still serve continental style breakfasts; cycling is energy intensive so we do recommend you plan for a morning or mid-morning snack on the road at a local café or market.

Water is OK in almost all hotels and in country fountains; if there is a problem, we will advise you.

We’ll recommend lunch locations en route and most itineraries include a few group picnics. We limit the number of picnics so you don't feel pressured to be at a certain place in the middle of your ride.

Dinners together are often pre-planned and pre-ordered. We’ll ask you if you have special dietary requirements. Pre-planned meals allow us to provide a variety of regional specialties and facilitate efficient service. Water, wine and beer are included.

TIPPING YOUR TOUR LEADER TEAM
If you feel your tour leader team has demonstrated great expertise and service, common practice within the travel industry is to tip. Tipping is voluntary and greatly appreciated, and gratuity amounts vary widely. Should you decide to leave a tip, as a guideline, we suggest 5% of the tour cost per traveler – this for the entire tour leader team, not each Tour Leader. If you’d like to show your gratitude for your Tour Leaders’ excellent service you can give the tip to any member of the tour leader team, as they share it evenly. In order to avoid social tensions, we encourage you to tip as individuals and not as a group. If you feel your Tour Leaders did not quite meet your expectations, then we would like to know about it. You will also have the opportunity to leave your comments in our evaluation survey which we email to you after your trip.

PHOTOS
By reserving space on tour, you agree that ExperiencePlus! may use, re-use and reproduce any images, photos or videos sent to us, or taken by our guides or travelers free of charge and without your right to inspection. If you do not want us to use any images of you on tour, you must inform...
TO DO ONCE YOU’VE BOOKED!

☐ Read through your Reservation Confirmation Email, it has important information to help you plan your trip!
☐ Check the date on your passport. The expiration date should extend three months past your date of return to your home country.
☐ Complete the Customer Information Form: https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/customer-information-form/
☐ We recommend you take out travel insurance. Find details at https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/travel-insurance/
☐ Download the bicycle training program: https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/bicycle-tour-training/
☐ Peruse our country-specific Travel Planning Pages: https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/

6 TO 3 MONTHS PRIOR TO TOUR START DATE

☐ Check the online itinerary of your trip and review the arrival and departure information under the "Travel Information" tab to see meeting place and time, if a reservation on a complimentary ExperiencePlus! Shuttle (if applicable) is required, and other important information to help you plan your arrival and departure.
☐ Reserve your flights after you know you have a confirmed tour departure. Please check with our office if you do not know if your trip is confirmed.
☐ Book your pre and post-tour hotel nights.
☐ 12 weeks before your tour begin your training program https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/bicycle-tour-training/.
☐ Final payment is due 90 days (120 days for Bike & Barge/Boat tours) prior to the tour start. Please refer to your Deposit Payment Invoice and the Final Payment Reminder e-mail you have received for detailed instructions.

6 TO 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO TOUR START DATE

☐ Start reading one of the books or watching one of the movies from our Reading and Movie List you'll find on the country-specific Travel Planning Pages: https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/.
☐ Plan what you are going to pack and start packing! Refer to the Packing Lists on our website at https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/packing/.
☐ We'll email your Hotel Itinerary, the Participant Roster, names and contact information of your Tour Leaders and other important departure information about 30 days prior to departure.

DAY OF YOUR FLIGHT

Get as much sleep on the plane as you can. Pack one day of cycling gear in your carry-on. See you soon!