

Chile Backcountry Ski Adventure

8 Days in Chile / Skill Level: Intermediate



September 15 - 22, 2019

Land costs **\$3500**

*All costs included with the exception of alcohol, in-town meals

Difficulty Level: Intermediate Ski Touring – Skiers must be competent on a variety of terrain and snow conditions. Skiers must be able to link turns in steep terrain (up to 45 degrees) while maintaining control. Skiers must also have basic snow climbing experience including use of ice axe and crampons.

Highlights

- Ski four of southern Chile's best volcanoes, including, Lonquimay, Llaima, Villarrica and Osorno world's tallest active volcano
- Experience the rich Chilean culture and enjoy local cuisine along the way
- Natural hot springs are available to soak our tired muscles

Overview

You've built up your ski touring and ski mountaineering skills in your home range, and now you're considering the next step to take those skills abroad. The world is full of incredible ski objectives, and the lake district of Chile is a destination that provides the key ingredients of adventure, culture, and incredible ski touring. It's hard to put the experience into words, but we'll try.

Alpenglow's certified ski guides are constantly on the search for new destinations for us to explore, and they have identified the volcanoes of southern Chile as a destination that provides everything we look for in a high quality expedition. Beautiful snow-covered volcanoes rise out of the forest like sentinels guarding the heavens, and they beckon skiers to enjoy their flanks. On these slopes we'll find spring skiing conditions similar to what you'll find in the High Sierra or any spring ski mountaineering objective. Incredible corn snow fills slopes between 30-45 degrees as we search for the best conditions day after day on wide open slopes.

The trip begins as we arrive in Temuco after a long period of travel and drive 2 hours to Malalcahuello. We recommend arriving early in the day so that we can spend the afternoon resting and exploring. Perhaps we'll have a chance to sample the natural hot springs that dot the landscape and prepare ourselves for the long days of ski touring ahead of us.

Our first objective is the Lonquimay Volcano. Dotted with a couple of ski resorts, we choose the path less traveled and tour for about 3-4 hours to explore slopes of 30 degrees to get our legs under us. We spend the night again in Malalcahuello and will soak again in hot springs.

The next day we wake up early and travel for an hour to the base of Llaima Volcano. This is the signature volcano of the region and for good reason. It stands to deliver us the longest day of touring at 5-6 hours, and we're rewarded with the longest descent of the trip at over 5,000' of bliss.

Now we need a rest day - we travel 4 hours to Pucón where we spend the day exploring the city and replenish calories with local cuisine. We again have the chance to soak in hot springs to relax our tired legs.

We're back at it on day 5 as we ascend the Villarrica volcano. We tour up the flanks of this active volcano for about 5 hours. When we make it the crater, we will have the chance to peer deep inside and can possibly catch a glimpse of the molten lava

within. We'll click in at the crater rim and descend back down to where we came from, skiing slopes as steep as 40 degrees in some zones.

Nearing the end of our trip, day 6 brings us to Puerto Varas, a beautiful city on the shores of lake Llanquihue. Across the lake we'll have views of our next objective, the Osorno Volcano. Today we rest and tour the city, always keeping an eye on Osorno.

Our final day of touring brings us to the base of Osorno. It's a 1 hour drive from Puerto Varas, and once we begin ascending we'll be moving for about 4-5 hours. The last slope up high is quite steep and we may utilize fixed ropes. We'll take in our final view from the top of a peak and begin our steepest descent of the trip with slopes up to 50 degrees.

The trip wraps up in Puerto Montt, a beautiful city on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. You'll catch your first flight home here as we say goodbye to an eye opening and adventures trip to the volcanoes of southern Chile.

Our Chilean ski tours are guided by one or more of Alpenglow's AMGA certified lead guides. AMGA (American Mountain Guides Association) certification is the most prestigious in the world, attained only by the most experienced and dedicated guides. Our lead guides have traveled and climbed extensively throughout South America and possess intimate knowledge of the Andes Mountains. A thorough understanding of Andean culture combined with a passion for teaching others guarantees an experience you won't soon forget.

Volcano Ski Touring in Chile

Day 1	Arrive in Temuco and drive 2 hours to Malalcahuello. Flights should arrive by early afternoon.
Day 2	A 3-4 hour tour of Lonquimay allows us to get our legs under us as we sample the first turns in Chile. We'll encounter mellow slopes of 30 degrees and spend the evening soaking in hot springs.
Day 3	We drive for an hour to Llaima Volcano. This will be our longest day of touring at 5-6 hours and we'll also be rewarded with our longest descent.
Day 4	Today we travel to the town of Pucón where we rest a bit while exploring the town. We'll eat delicious food, soak in hot springs and make plans for our next day of touring.
Day 5	Just 40 minutes from Pucón, we'll climb and ski Villarica Volcano today. We'll tour up for about 5 hours today and encounter steeper slopes at 40 degrees. If we're lucky, we'll be able to peer into the crater and see molten lava flowing. We spend the night in Pucón.
Day 6	Situated along Lake Llanquihue, our day in Puerto Varas will be restful as we explore the city. We spend the night in Puerto Varas tonight as we prepare for our final day of touring.
Day 7	Our final day of touring brings us to Osorno Volcano where we'll encounter our steepest slopes in both the ascent and descent. 4-5 hours of climbing will bring us to fixed lines at the top. We'll take in our final breathtaking views before descending slopes as steep as 50 degrees. Final night in Puerto Varas.
Day 8	Sadly this is our last day. You will depart at Puerto Montt airport.

Client Expectations and Timeline



90+ Days to Departure

Reserve Spot	Make your deposit to confirm registration - if you haven't already, head over to our website and click "Reserve Spot" and select your dates. The rest of the process is as easy as buying a book online. Make sure that you select to add an extension if you wish to extend any expedition.
Q&A	Q&A with Alpenglow - time to ask any question about travel, logistics, training and everything in between.
Application	Complete full application including medical questionnaire & travel information.
Reserve Rentals	Reserve rentals if needed within application. For our climbing schools, we have a small rental inventory of boots, ice axes, crampons, helmets and harnesses. These are provided at no cost on a first come first serve basis. Please let us know what you plan on renting as soon as possible.

Within 90 Days to Departure

Complete Payment	Full Payment will be collected at the 90 day mark. Alpenglow will contact you prior to taking final payment and once you confirm we'll simply move your booking into the final stages. For international trips, a wire transaction is the best way to send payment. We also accept credit cards with transaction fee of 3% or you can pay by check.
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Within 90 Days to Departure

Book Travel	We recommend reviewing flight options outside of 90 days and confirming with Alpenglow on travel times. Use us to guide you to the best flight schedules to make travel as easy as possible. Once you book your flights don't forget to share with the Alpenglow office so we pick you up on time from the airport.
Training	This is the hard part. The hours of training you put in directly correlates to your success in the mountains. Train hard and be ready for the adventure of a lifetime!
Equipment	Compile all equipment using the equipment list as a guide.
Purchase Insurance	Purchase travel and rescue insurance. We recommend Global Rescue and Travel Guard. Click here to find links to each.

General Trip Information

Payment

1. A 20% deposit is required for all treks and expeditions. Deposits are due upon registration, and can be paid by check made out to "Alpenglow Expeditions, LLC". All payments should be mailed to Alpenglow Expeditions at P.O. Box 3122, Olympic Valley, CA 96146 or sent via wire transfer. If wiring payment, please contact us for bank details and be certain that you are covering ALL fees! We also accept credit card payments with a transaction fee of 3%. Deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable. This is not a flexible policy. Planning our trips takes significant time and has non-refundable costs as well.
2. Balances are due 90 days before the expedition departs from the United States. Payment should be made as described above.
3. The cost of your trip includes your land costs (excluding in-town meals). This includes: double occupancy lodging while in town, meals on the mountain, scheduled transportation while in the countries we are visiting, group camping and climbing equipment, individual technical climbing equipment (boots, ice axes, crampons, helmets, harnesses), and guides.
4. The cost of your trip does not include: flights to/from the city where the expedition begins, airport taxes, visas, in-town meals, immunizations, tips for guides or local staff, travel, rescue, or any other type of insurance, hospitalization or evacuation costs, single supplement charges, excess baggage charges, alcohol, or other personal expenses.
5. The costs of delays or changes to itinerary that are beyond the control of Alpenglow Expeditions or its agents are not included.

Cancellations

1. We reserve the right to cancel any trip at any time. Reasons for cancellation might include (but are not limited to) political instability, natural disasters, or inadequate

enrollment. If we cancel a trip prior to its start for low enrollment, we fully refund your payments. If we cancel your trip prior to its start due to political instability, natural disasters, or other reasons of that nature, we will refund all but non-recoverable costs. Changes to a trip itinerary made by our guides for any reason do not constitute a cancellation, and no refunds will be made in this case.

2. If you cancel your trip more than 90 days prior to departure, Alpenglw Expeditions will refund your payment minus the non-refundable deposit. 60-89 days prior, Alpenglw Expeditions will refund 50% of your payment. Fewer than 60 days prior, there are no refunds or credits.
3. On any trip, our guides reserve the right to remove any person, for any reason. These reasons generally stem from a person jeopardizing the safety of themselves or another team member. This includes a person who is not physically able to climb at the level necessary for the chosen route. In all these cases, there are no refunds whatsoever, and the client will be responsible for any additional costs incurred in leaving the trip.

Flights

We recommend using Kayak.com as a primary source for finding low-fare airfares.

****Please confirm your itinerary with Alpenglw Expeditions before you purchase it.****

Insurance

We require that all participants carry rescue insurance, travel insurance, and health insurance. Your policy numbers must be provided to us prior to leaving the USA. Homeowner/Renter's insurance is also recommended.

- Rescue Insurance- For US citizens, we recommend obtaining rescue insurance through American Alpine Club and upgrading that service via Global Rescue. Visit www.americanalpineclub.org to become a member and obtain the appropriate level of coverage based on the altitude of the peaks you will be climbing with us. Helicopter rescues in foreign countries, while unlikely, can cost up to \$20,000. International climbers have several options as well for rescue insurance. Our recommendation is Global Rescue as we have had great success with them in the past. Your insurance must not have a mountaineering exclusion and must cover up to your trip's highest altitude. This coverage is very important.
- Travel Insurance- We recommend using [Global Rescue's IMG Signature Travel Insurance](#). Coverage should include lost/damaged baggage, unexpected delays, accident/life, and trip cancellation. Trip cancellation will cover you for non-refundable air and land costs should you need to cancel your trip due to an emergency. Since our costs are often not refundable, this coverage is very important as well, and should be purchased as soon as possible after registering for an expedition.
- Health Insurance- All members of our teams are required to have current health insurance. This insurance should cover emergency hospitalization abroad as well as domestically.
- Homeowner/Renter's Insurance- While unusual, thefts can occur while overseas. We recommend a policy to cover these losses.

Medical

All of our expeditions and treks are physically demanding. Regardless of the skill level or experience needed, it is essential that you arrive in good physical shape, and prepared to handle extreme conditions, including cold, heat, and long tiring days. Alpenglw Expeditions, LLC and its guides reserve the right to remove any member of our trips at any time if we do not

believe they are ready for the rigors of the trip.

Our guides are certified in wilderness medicine, CPR, and are experienced in client care in remote high altitude locations. However, Alpenglow Expeditions, LLC is not a medical facility and Alpenglow Expeditions, LLC assumes no liability regarding medical care.

You are responsible for your own medications, inoculations, and deciding whether you are physically able to participate in an Alpenglow Expeditions trip. You should discuss your participation in this trip, and the dangers involved, with your physician.

Some of the medications you may consider carrying with you include:

1. Tylenol – a simple painkiller for headaches and minor pains.
2. Ibuprofen – mild altitude headaches, along with body aches and pains, are common.
3. A cold and flu remedy of your choice (strong decongestant).
4. Pepto Bismol - for minor stomach upset, best taken in caplet form.
5. Immodium AD – to control diarrhea, when necessary. Again, tablets are preferred.
6. Cough Drops – the air at altitude is very dry, and many climbers develop hacking coughs.
7. A laxative agent of your choice.
8. Dramamine (or equivalent) – an anti-motion sickness agent of your choice as bus/plane rides to our trailheads are often very bumpy.
9. Diamox (Acetazolomide) required – prescription medication often used prophylactically to prevent altitude sickness. You should have a large enough supply to take 250mg/day (best as scored tablets so you can take 125mg twice a day).
10. Z-pack required – a broad spectrum anti-biotic.

Also be sure to discuss vaccinations with your doctor. Often a travel clinic has the most up-to-date information on which shots are necessary for the country you are visiting. Be sure to mention that most of our trips explore only the highlands and capital cities. This might mean that you need fewer immunizations, and anti-malarials are often not necessary. Determine this with your doctor, and refer to your trip itinerary for the exact locations we will be visiting. At the very least, your tetanus shot should be up-to-date and you should have protection against Hepatitis A.

Aerobic Conditioning

We cannot stress enough the importance of being in excellent aerobic condition before arriving on your trip. Arriving fit will increase your safety on the trip and reduce the risk of medical issues. It will also dramatically increase your enjoyment and learning during your trek or expedition. At the minimum, we recommend an exercise regimen that includes a minimum of 3 one-hour workouts per week (biking, running, swimming) along with a few long days hiking as you get close to your departure date. Please call us if you would like to discuss a specific routine to fit your needs.

Money

The countries we visit can still be challenging places to use a credit card or find an ATM. While you may choose to bring these for backup, we recommend you bring enough cash for your planned spending. American dollars are still the easiest way to carry money. Be sure you carry clean, new bills and have some smaller denominations. Carry your money and important

documents in a hidden waist pouch under your clothes.

The amount of money you need varies by how many presents you plan on bringing back! In addition to souvenirs and gifts, plan on spending on airport departure taxes, alcohol and snacks, and tips for local staff and your guides.

Additional Notes

- Single Supplement - If you prefer a single room while we are in hotels, please let us know as soon as possible. There will be an additional cost associated for this.
- Cameras – high quality point and shoot digital cameras are an excellent option. We have found that small pocket cameras are much better than big DSLRs for summit days. You need a simple light system, and the new generation of digitals take great photos. A guide favorite is the Sony RX 100.
- Be sure to create a data sheet of all of your essential information – passport, credit card or ATM numbers, airline ticket information, visa number (if applicable), etc. This sheet should then be photocopied and scattered amongst your luggage. If any of your documents are stolen, having this information will be essential.