



# BOREAL RIVER ADVENTURES



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## PATAGONIA PACKRAFT EXPEDITION

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*Take a trek—and experience life in the Andes—from Argentina to Chile and back*



## TRIP DETAILS AT A GLANCE

- Meeting location:** Bariloche, Argentina
- Duration:** 8 days, 7 nights
- Max. group size:** 8 participants
- Activities:** Whitewater packrafting, hiking, wilderness expedition
- Activity level:** **Remoteness:** Backcountry
- Physical activity:** Highly active
- Whitewater:** Class III (some optional IV's)

See departure dates and details at [adventures.borealriver.com](http://adventures.borealriver.com)

## WHY BOREAL RIVER ADVENTURES?

### 3 REASONS TO JOIN BOREAL RIVER ADVENTURES

#### Experience immersive travel

On every trip, you'll expand your horizons—gaining skills or connecting on a deeper level with local culture and ecology.

#### Easy planning—with every detail dialled

You get a world class river expedition—with all the prep made easy for you.

#### Our business is safety

Your guides aren't just qualified, they're wilderness and whitewater safety and rescue instructors.

*"Best trip ever, hands down"*

ADENA FRANZ, MAGPIE RIVER ADVENTURE



### TO RESERVE YOUR TRIP

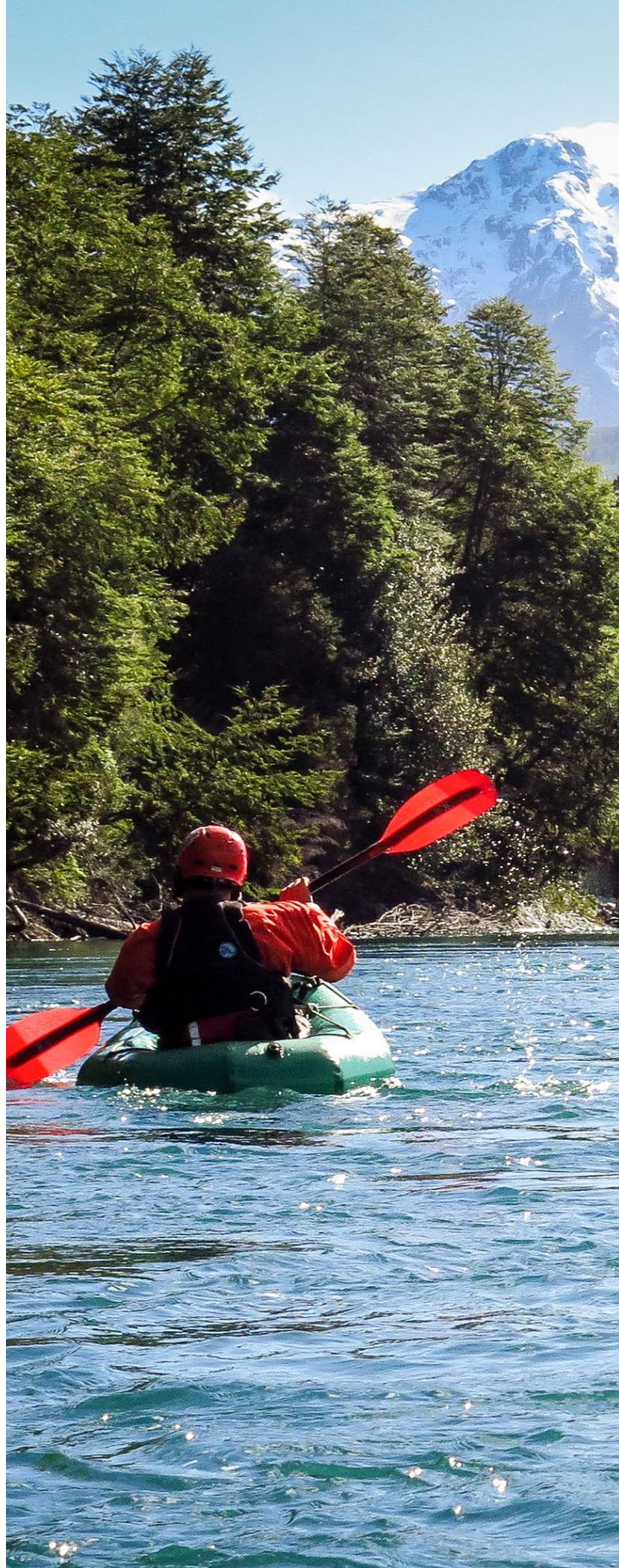
Book **online** or call 866-242-9383  
or 613-503-4717



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# TRIP DESCRIPTION

*Discover Northern Patagonia under your own steam. On this trip, you'll explore epic landscapes. Find out what life is like for the 'paisanos' who settled here. Paddle the Rio Puelo—a hidden gem of a river—in your own packraft.*

You don't need whitewater experience. Just be physically fit and have a taste for adventure. You'll start and end in Bariloche. Paddle up to what must be one of the most charming border crossings anywhere. With no line-ups at this hut, you'll stamp your passport and jump back into your boat, bobbing through waves into Chile, on a remote river in the Andes. Your guides are super experienced, knowledgeable, welcoming, and great teachers. You'll learn how to:

- 'Read' and 'run' rapids in safety and confidence
- Pack your backpack and camp in comfort on a lightweight backcountry expedition
- Speak Spanish with a thick Patagonian drawl (just kidding). You'll share meals and laughs with friendly locals: on a couple of days we'll pull off the river, set up camp on their land, and be welcomed into their homes for an asado (traditional barbecue)

# TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

*Why choose Patagonia for your next vacation?*

## **Experience what life is like in the Andean backcountry**

Your professional local guides love to share their land, rivers, and culture. But extra special on this trip: we're hosted by 'paisanos' on our way downstream.

## **Learn whitewater and backpacking skills**

Regardless of your experience, you'll gain new skills. Want to learn how to cook on a fire? Surf a wave in your packraft? Done and done. Learn how to not just survive, but thrive in the backcountry.

## **Adventure made easy**

You won't have to sort out logistics or specialized gear. Let us plan the details (we're obsessed with details) so you can focus on the task at hand: recharge on an unforgettable travel experience.

# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Your professional guides are always available
  - Maximum 4:1 guest to guide ratio. Your guides are what make this trip possible. They're knowledgeable, experienced, organized, and friendly.
- All ground transportation: we'll be waiting for you to pick you up at the airport in Bariloche, Argentina (BRC) on day 1, and we'll bring you back there on day 8. All transport throughout the trip is included.
- 2 nights (first and last) at a hotel in Bariloche, double occupancy\*
- \* If you are travelling alone, we'll pair you with another traveler of the same gender. If you would prefer your own room, the single supplement is \$220 total (for the 2 hotel nights)
- 5 nights guided expedition camping
- All group camping gear, safety equipment, (first aid kits, sat phone, inReach device) and repair kits
- All amazing meals and snacks are included from day-2 breakfast through day-8 breakfast
  - Breakfasts day 2 and 8: full spreads at the hotel in Bariloche
  - Dinner day 7: great restaurant in Bariloche for our farewell dinner
  - All expedition meals and snacks throughout the trip: you'll eat well!
  - On 2 or 3 of the expedition days, we'll camp riverside on land belonging to local paisano families. They'll host us and welcome us for amazing homemade meals.
  - On days when we're doing self-supported packrafting, you'll take part in the cooking

and we'll show you how to pack and plan for expedition meals.

- Alcohol: for our group dinner in Bariloche (night 7), we provide enough wine and beer for two drinks per person per meal. For expedition nights, weight is an issue, mind you, your local guides are pretty resourceful at finding just the right beverage to compliment an asado

We'll ask you to let us know about your food preferences and needs on your pre-trip questionnaire.

# WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- Travel between your home and Bariloche, Argentina
- Personal clothing and some camping gear. See 'packing list' below for what you need to bring
- Travel Medical insurance and Trip Cancellation insurance
- Any costs associated with your emergency evacuation from the trip
- Day 1 dinner in town: decisions, decisions... your guides will recommend their favourites but ultimately it's up to you to make the tough choices: from steak (yup, it's better than you can imagine) to fine French to vegan options to fast food—and everything in between—you'll find all of these within walking distance of the hotel.
- Optional: Fishing license
- Optional: Guide gratuities – we recommend \$12 to \$24 USD per day that can be split amongst the guide team.



## YOUR GUIDE TEAM AND HOSTS

For the Patagonia Packraft Expedition, we partner with Paddle Patagonia, owned and operated by Julian Tisato and Katie Hambly. They run mountain biking and whitewater trips across Argentina and Chile. Based in El Bolson, they're the on-the-ground local super experts who not only make this trip possible—they make it incredible!

You want an adventure travel vacation of a lifetime. Paddle Patagonia's amazing network of professional guides and logistics staff deliver. Katie and Julian's attention to detail is impeccable. They love the region, and they're passionate about sharing it, and teaching travelers everything from local history to wilderness skills.

We at Boreal River have tons of experience running remote river expeditions worldwide. Paddle Patagonia has incredible local knowledge, relationships, and operational prowess. Together we make a great pair.

### LEARN FROM EXPERT GUIDES

Julian Tisato, owner of Paddle Patagonia, leads a team of fantastic local guides: Mirko, Fidel, and Titi!

When you spend time on the river with any of them, you can't help but catch their infectious energy, not to mention, grow your skills.

Packrafting is new to Patagonia, and your local guide team is excited to explore with you.

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# ITINERARY

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## DAY 1

### ARRIVAL IN SAN CARLOS DE BARILOCHE, ARGENTINA



Welcome to Patagonia! Arrive in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina. You'll likely be coming from a stopover\* in Buenos Aires. One of your guides will greet you at the Bariloche airport. We'll drive you to the hotel, Las Marianas Hosteria, right in the centre of town. You're on your own today to explore town and go out for dinner—we'll point you in the direction of some amazing restaurants.

\*Note: the shuttle between airports in Buenos Aires can take 5 hours, so most people plan for a night or more to explore the city.

## DAY 2

### PACKRAFT AND WHITEWATER TRAINING



After breakfast at the hotel, we'll meet up for introductions and go over the plan.

Next, we'll load up the vehicles and depart for El Bolson (120 km drive) and the Azul River. We'll be welcomed by our host, Tito, on who's beautiful riverside property we'll be camping.

When we get to the river, training begins. This day is about getting comfortable in whitewater: in and out of your boat.

At this point, you'll be introduced to the full guide team. Depending on your group size, you'll have 2 or 3 professional river leaders with you throughout the trip. They're whitewater experts with years of guiding experience in Argentina and around the world. They love the water and enjoy teaching people of all skill levels. They'll be looking forward to helping you get confident in your boat.

We'll paddle a fun and beautiful section of class II whitewater on the Azul. You'll learn how to: read whitewater and pick routes through rapids, work with the water to steer your packraft in the river—and get where you want to go, swim safely in moving water, safely walk across shallow sections alone and as a team, flip your packraft and climb back in, communicate on the river, catch rescue throw bags, surf waves, and more!

Back at Tito's, we'll have all the gear laid out and help you pack up for tomorrow's departure. This evening you'll pack up for the river:

- Load your backpack,
- Pack food and equipment (we'll have it all laid out so it's easy)
- Test out our water filters and backpacking stoves
- Set up your Hennessey Hammock or tent.

Enjoy an amazing meal prepared by Tito and his family—the expedition begins tomorrow.

## DAY 3

### HIKING AND PADDLING ACROSS THE BORDER TO CHILE



Don't forget your passport! After an early breakfast, we'll depart for the short drive to Lago Puelo National Park. From the shores of the Lago (lake) Puelo, we'll start paddling or hiking, depending on the wind conditions. Throughout our trip we'll adjust our plans for big lake crossings based on the wind. Luckily, if we have a strong headwind, there are great hiking trails around all the lakes. With a strong tailwind we can lash our boats together and rig a sail!

We'll pull over for snacks, lunch, and photo ops: this is the land of turquoise water and snow capped mountains.

We arrive at the border crossing to leave Argentina and fill out our exit paperwork. These have to be some of the most charming little

border crossings in the world—they won't blink at the sight of us in our paddling gear.

From there we continue via "no man's land" either hiking or paddling the lake another 4km and a short section of whitewater, which connects Lago Puelo to Lago Inferior.

We continue by paddling Lago Inferior for 9km to reach the Chilean border crossing. After completing our paperwork for entering Chile we will backtrack slightly to stay at Nadine & Fernando's cabana. They live in between the border crossings and will provide us with a well-deserved home cooked meal!



## DAY 4

### WHITEWATER RAPIDS, HIKING & A NIGHT IN THE WILDERNESS



After breakfast with our hosts, we'll hit the water, paddling another 3km down the lake before we reach the mouth of the Rio Puelo! You'll enjoy paddling an awesome 8km stretch of continuous class II rapids.

We'll arrive at a deep and steep class V gorge. This wouldn't be a fun or smart place to try and paddle. We'll take to the trails, hiking along the canyon through the Valdivian forest with occasional views of the canyon rapids.

It's expedition camping tonight. We'll set up camp toward the end of the canyon. Gather round the fire and settle in for a night in the wilderness.

## DAY 5

### WHITEWATER RAPIDS AND PAISANO HOSPITALITY



We'll have breakfast at our campsite before starting onto paddling a beautiful section of the Rio Puelo. We stop at the home of Don Dario and his family for a traditional, Chilean lunch.

The river this afternoon is awesome with spectacular scenery and some of the best rapids you'll paddle on the whole trip.

After another great day on the water, we'll arrive at Don Chindo's house, where we'll camp for the night.

## DAY 6

### LAGO LAS ROCAS AND RETURN TO ARGENTINA



After breakfast at Don Chindo's, we jump on a local bus for a quick shuttle to the Lago Las Rocas trailhead. After a short hike we'll reach the lake where we paddle back to the Chilean border crossing. This is yet another gorgeous lake.

With our passports back in hand, we continue the trek onto the Argentinean border crossing. Gathering around the fire, we'll enjoy our last night of camping together: reminiscing about the journey, and enjoying the simple life—food, fresh air, camaraderie, and wilderness adventure.



## DAY 7

### PADDLE LAGO PUELO, RETURN TO BARILOCHE, FAREWELL DINNER

After breakfast at camp, we'll put back onto the now familiar waters of Lago Puelo and we'll re-enter Lago Puelo National Park, enjoying our last paddle across this beautiful lake.

We arrive back at the eastern shore with high fives and mixed feelings: mission accomplished on an incredible journey, fond memories of the characters we met and the beautiful countryside we experienced along the way, but certainly some ambivalence about leaving it behind.

It's always a bit of a culture shock to get back in a vehicle and drive through towns. We easy back into 'civilization' with lunch in El Bolson (the market here is a great place for souvenirs!) followed by a beautiful 2 hour drive back to Bariloche.

We'll make it to the hotel with plenty of time for showers and cleaning up gear before our final farewell dinner at a great restaurant.

## DAY 8

### DEPARTURE AND FLIGHTS HOME

This morning, breakfast is at the hotel. Depending on your flight schedule, you may have time for a final stroll around town. Then we'll drive you to the airport to see you off.

If you'd like to stay for a few more nights in Bariloche, let us know and we can make those arrangements. If you'd like to stay forever—you're not alone.





# GETTING TO BARILOCHE, ARGENTINA

Our trip starts and ends in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina. There are several flights a day to Bariloche-Rio Negro airport (code BRC) that connect through Buenos Aires, Argentina. Most travelers spend one or more nights in Buenos Aires on their way to Bariloche.

*\*Note: the shuttle between the 2 airports in Buenos Aires can take several hours. Make sure to look into this when booking your flights.*

Your Boreal River guides will pick you up and drop you off at the Bariloche airport. If you're arriving on an earlier day, we'll meet you at the hotel on day 1.

## CARBON OFFSETS

We've calculated a carbon offset for the Patagonia Packraft Expedition and we buy carbon offsets for the whole group for each trip. This covers the trip itself including:

- Boreal River guide travel to Bariloche
- Food sourcing and cooking
- Land transport for the passenger vehicles and equipment/support staff vehicles used throughout your trip
- Equipment use, sourcing, and maintenance

The offsets we buy don't cover your travel between your home and Argentina. You can purchase these from a **variety of sources**.

## INSURANCE

Guests on Boreal River trips need to have appropriate Medical insurance. Any evacuation costs will be billed to the person that is leaving the trip. Insurance should cover emergency air evacuation from the river to a local hospital, medical treatment within Argentina or Chile and repatriation.

We also strongly recommend obtaining Trip Cancellation insurance, which will reimburse you for the unused portion of your Boreal River trip if you must cancel prior to departure or leave your trip early. If you have insurance coverage from a credit card or an existing plan, please make sure that it will cover you for the above mentioned emergency situations and that you are covered while participating in whitewater activities and remote wilderness travel.

For an insurance package that will cover you for the specific situations encountered on our trips, we recommended something similar to what **World Nomads** offers.

# WHAT TO PACK

You'll be able to leave luggage that you don't need for the expedition in secure storage during the trip.

The daytime temperature in northern Patagonia is generally warm during the summer (December – March) but all sorts of weather can come in.

Synthetic materials such as polyester, polypro, and nylon are great as they dry quickly. Merino wool is a natural fibre that dries quickly and works well too. Avoid cotton—once it gets wet it won't dry and it doesn't insulate.

Bring two sets of clothes and footwear: one for on the water and hiking, the other for evenings at camp.

## EQUIPMENT THAT WE WILL PROVIDE FOR YOU

If you have any of these items and prefer to bring your own, you can do that. Just let us know and we will make sure it is right for this trip. Remember everything for this remote adventure needs to be expedition-worthy and lightweight.

- Expedition packraft and break-down paddle
- Whitewater helmet and flotation device
- Wetsuit
- 50L Drybag for you to line your backpack
- Tarp for your sleeping shelter (no bugs in Patagonia—so we'll provide you with this tarp and show you how to make a solid sleeping shelter)
- All group camping equipment such as cooking and eating utensils, dishes, group shelters, etc.
- All group safety equipment including first aid kits, satellite phone, and InReach device

## FOR HIKING AND PADDLING

- Sunscreen and lip protection
- Water bottle, 1 litre
- Sunglasses with strap
- Prescription glasses with strap or contacts (bring an extra pair of glasses & a copy of your eyeglass prescription)
- A suspension backpack like this one. We recommend 100L or even more, so you can fit all your camping gear, food, and packrafting gear. Rent from us for \$115.
- Several small stuff sacs, mesh bags, or lightweight drybags to organize your gear inside your backpack
- Small (10L or less) drybag to have accessible in your packraft—so you can have quick access to items while paddling (like snacks, which we'll provide). Something like this or this or if you want to get fancy and have something totally dry, most of our guides have something like this)
- Nice to have: 3 or 4 locking carabiners like these to clip things into your packraft or onto your backpack—carabiners with locking gates are much safer for using in and around whitewater.

- Optional: insulated drink bottle like this one for keeping your coffee or tea with you on the river or trail. Must have 100% leakproof screw-on lid if you want this to work for you on the river

## PACKING LIST FOR CAMP

- A 3-season sleeping bag rated to -5°C/- 23°F like this or this—with a compression sac. Make sure it weighs under 1.5kg and is highly compressible. You can rent one from us for \$115
- An inflatable sleeping pad – high quality and lightweight like this. Rent for \$35.
- Several small stuff sacs, mesh bags, or lightweight drybags to organize your gear inside your backpack
- 1 pair of shoes (old running shoes or closed toe clogs—something to keep your feet safe and dry.)
- 2 or 3 pairs of thermal socks (1 or 2 different weights is a good idea)
- Undergarments (synthetic anti-microbial is best; it dries quickly and keeps you clean.)
- Lightweight t-shirt
- Lightweight long-sleeve shirt
- Lightweight ‘quick dry’ long pants
- Thick fleece or wool sweater
- Thick fleece pants
- Top and bottom medium-weight synthetic or wool long underwear
- Rain gear top and bottom
- Toque (wool or fleece winter hat)
- Sun hat

- Small quick-dry towel
- Headlamp with extra batteries
- Toiletry kit with biodegradable soap and shampoo as well as personal medications
- Optional: reading material, journal, binoculars, camera (waterproof or with waterproof case)

## PACKING LIST FOR THE RIVER

- 1 pair of shoes for the river. The ideal river shoe is lightweight and draining yet supportive enough for walking on portages and scouting rapids, with a grippy sole. These can be lightweight running shoes, water shoes with a supportive sole, or sturdy sandals with toe covering.
- 2 pairs of thermal socks for the river: wool, fleece, or synthetic.
- Bathing suit / surf shorts
- Lightweight synthetic t-shirt
- Top and bottom medium-weight synthetic or wool long underwear
- Long-sleeved neoprene ‘surf’ top or long-sleeved medium-weight fleece top
- Thick fleece or wool sweater
- Thick fleece pants

## GENERAL PACKING LIST

- Clothes for the trip home
- Passport and travel documents
- Medical insurance cards or policies

# ACTIVITY LEVEL

**Remoteness:** Backcountry

**Physical activity:** Highly active

**Whitewater:** Class III (some optional IV's)

You don't need any whitewater experience or river expedition experience, but you need to be in good enough physical condition to enjoy the trip.

Hiking with all of your gear requires endurance, strength, and energy. Because of that, if you're joining this adventure you should be fit enough to jog 6.5 km / 4 miles and be comfortable hiking with a full backpack for a full day.

If you're used to backcountry canoeing and hiking in parks and comfortable carrying heavy loads, you'll be great.

# CONDITIONING TIPS

If you're an outdoor enthusiast who regularly spends long days on the water or trails you should be fine, but it won't hurt to do more. And your enjoyment will only improve the more fit you are. To get in shape for this trip we suggest:

- Do some cardio work, such as jogging or cycling for at least an hour, 3 or more times a week
- Lift weights 2 or 3 times a week. Alternatively, cross train with activities such as swimming, hiking, climbing or paddling 2 or 3 times per week

If you'd like a more detailed program you can ask us, or even join a gym and tell the trainer what you're conditioning for.

# RESOURCES

Please visit our website for additional resources as you prepare for your trip.

You'll find additional information on:

- **our safety and camping systems**
- **your guides**
- and more!

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# PLANNING CHECKLIST

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## 90 DAYS OR MORE BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE

- Reserve** your adventure.
- Plan your travel to and from Bariloche, Argentina
- Check your passport expiry date (if you'll be travelling from abroad)
- Purchase medical and trip cancellation insurance\*
- Complete your **pre-trip questionnaire** with menu choices, medical, emergency contact info, flight info, and anything else you'd like us to know.
- Sign your **waiver**
- Decide on your travel dates and if you'll be adding other travel in South America before or after your trip with us. **Contact us** anytime for advice on Argentina trip extensions.

*\*Before purchasing non-refundable flights and other travel arrangements, please make sure that our office has let you know that the trip is 'confirmed'—meaning that we have the minimum number of participants to run the trip.*



## 6 WEEKS BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE

- Review your **packing list**, let us know if you have any questions.
- Make sure you have the gear you need and get missing items—let us know if you have any questions.
- Visit your family doctor or a travel clinic for up-to-date recommendations on health and immunizations

## 10 DAYS AND LESS BEFORE DEPARTURE

- Get packing!
- Give family, work, or friends our toll-free number 1-866-242-9383 and email **info@borealriver.com** in case they need to reach you during the expedition — our guides will check messages by satellite each day.

## TRAVEL DAY

- Let us know** if you run into any delays
- Meet your Boreal River Adventures guide at the airport. They'll be waiting for you wearing a Boreal River shirt and hat
- You made it—enjoy your adventure!

**Contact us** anytime if you have any questions at all.