An adventurous travel through the Heart of the Andes Patagonian, crossing from Los Glaciares National Park (Argentinian) to Carretera Austral (Chile) between native forests, crosses lakes, lagoons and rivers.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.
- **Duration:** 2 days.
  - Start day 1: El Chalten 8:30 A.M.
  - Finish day 2: Villa O’Higgins 9:00 P.M.
- **Distance:** 133 kilometers.
- **Difficulty:** Moderate.
- **Transport:** bus, boat, bike & walk or horse riding.

THE TRAVEL
The crossing consists of five segments.

The first 40 kms, corresponding to **segment 1** El Chaltén to Desierto Lake, are fit for bus or cycling. The **segment 2**, Crossing Desierto Lake for 13 kilometers, corresponding to only fit for navigation or trekking. The next 22 kilometers correspond to **segment 3** Border Crossing Desierto lake to Candelario Mancilla, wich are fit for horse riding, cycling and walking.

The following 51 kilometers corresponding to **segment 4** Crossing O’Higgins Lake, only fit for navigation, ending with **segment 5** Bahamondez Port to Villa O’Higgins, of 7 kilometers, is fit for any kind of land of transportation.

1. **- EL CHALTEN TO DESIERTO LAKE**
   - Distance: 40 kms; Drop: 105 mt; Condition: OK gravel road, a bit hilly in places but relatively flat approaching Desierto Lake.
   - Schedule: Bus every day 08:30, 12:00 y 15:00 hs.
   - Las Lengas. Av. Antonio de Viedma 95, El Chalten. Fono (+54-2962) 493023.
   - Zona Austral Turismo, Av MM de Güemes 173, Fono (+54-2962) 493214.
   - Journey Time: Bus 1:30 hr. / Bike 2:00 hr.
   - Fare Bus: AR$ 130.
   - Food: Not available, beverage only at Desierto Campground

2. **- FERRY ACROSS DESIERTO LAKE.**
   - Schedule: South to North: Tuesday 18:00 hrs; Wednesday to Sunday 10:30, 14:00 and 17:00 hrs.;
   - Journey Time: 40 minutes.
   - Fare: AR$ 110.

3. **- ARGENTINIA/ CHILE BORDER.**
   - DESIERTO LAKE to O’HIGGINS LAKE.
In Argentina: 6 Kms. Drop 180 mt ascent. Trekking 2 HR. Horse Riding 1 Hr, Bike 2 at 4 HR Condition: First 2km are narrow and very steep - pushing only. The rest is undulating with lots of mud, tree roots and several streams to cross.

In Chile: 16 Kms. Drop: 430 mt descent. Trekking 4 hr, Horse Riding 2,5 hr, Bike 3 hr; Condition: Regular gravel road. Easy for trekking, moderate for bikes. Last 6 km huge downhill; use caution near cliffs

- Argentinian Border Control: Gendarmeria Argentina in Desierto Lake north shore
- Chilean Border Control: Carabineros de Chile at 1.000 meters of C. Mancilla Port.

Horse riding: Laguna del. Desierto to Laguna Redonda.

- Horse for persons: Fare CH$ 15.000; AR$ 150; US$ 30 for horse.
- Horse for bags -60 kgs. Fare CH$ 20.000; AR$ 200; US$ 40 for horse.

Transfer Pickup (new service): Laguna Redonda to Candelario Mancilla. For groups 4 persons and bags. CH20.000 or AR$200.

Schedule: Horses for riding for bags only booking for days Tuesday and Friday: 02:00 PM, from Desierto lake North Shore to Candelario Mancilla.

Booking for horses: info@villaohiggins.com.

Lodging: Mancilla family for CH$6.000 /night. 250 meters from Candelario Mancilla Port.

Camping: In Desierto Lake North Shore (free) and Estancia Candelario Mancilla (CH$ 2.000).

Food: Mancilla family: breakfast: CH$ 3.000, lunch/dinner: CH$ 5.000.

Maps for border Crossing: Buy in El Chalten or El Calafate.

- Patagonian South Icefield. Trekking & Mountaineering Escala 1:50.000. Zagier-Urruty;
- Chalten Trekking Maps. Zona Lago O’Higgins, Escala 1:100.000. Chalten Outdoors

4. BOAT ACROSS O’HIGGINS LAKE.

Boat “Quetru” (60 passengers capacity).

Schedule:
- November: Saturday
- December: Wednesday and Saturday
- January and February 2012: Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.
- March: Saturday

11:30 A.M. Departure by boat C.Mancilla to Glaciar O’Higgins, passing in front of the glacier calving area en route.

16:30 P.M. Arrival at Candelario Mancilla Port.

17:00 AM. Departure by boat to Villa O’Higgins, passing La Florida Peninsula in route.

20:15 A.M. Arrival at Bahamondez Port.

Journey Time: Crossing O’Higgins Lake 2:40 hr. O’Higgins Glacier Trip: 5:00 hr.

Fare:
- O’Higgins Lake Crossing: CH$ 40.000; AR$ 400; US$ 85. Bike free.
- O’Higgins Glacier Trip: CH$25.000 ; AR$ 250; US$ 53.

Booking: info@villaohiggins.com. Pay on the boat.

5. BAHAMONDEZ PORT (O’HIGGINS BOAT DOCK) TO VILLA O’HIGGINS

Distance: 7 KM Drop: 15 mt ;

Condition: Good gravel road. Great scenery.

For Bikes: First 4k are hilly with many bends...

From rio Mayer bridge to Villa are flat. Easy

Schedule: 20:15 Bus from dock to Villa O’Higgins.

Journey Time: 15 minutes in bus / 35 minutes in bike.

Fare Bus CH$ 2.000 (US$ 4).- Pay on the bus.

*** TIPS ***

Food: Supermarket, hostels, restaurant only El Chalten and Villa O’Higgins.

Clothing: Take warm and water-proof garments.

Lodging in Villa O’Higgins: Hospedajes B&B from ch$8.000 and camping ch$3.000.

Money Exchange: No traveler’s checks or credit cards accepted anywhere; try Hielo Sur for US$ and exchange Argentinian pesos to Chilean. Bank and ATM in Cochrame, 230 KM.

Carretera Austral Transfer:

- Bus Villa O’Higgina to Tortel: December to February, Tuesday, Friday and Sunday: CH$ 15.000. Booking info@villaohiggins.com.
- Bus Villa O’Higgins to Cochrame. Buses Aldea (Booking phone +56 67 431829) : Monday and Friday. Departure 8:30 A.M. Rate ch$ 13.000 to Cochrame.
- Bus Cochrame to Coyhaique. Every days.

Cicling Carretera Austral: Stock-up on supplies in Villa O’Higgins because there is very little available until Tortel or Cochrame.