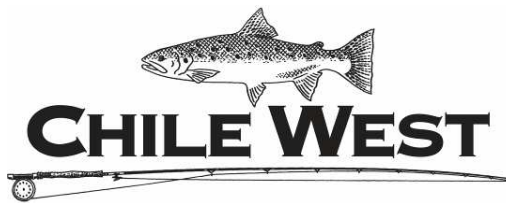


DENEKI O U T D O O R S



Trip Planner 2009-2010 Season

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Trip Description

Chile West is a mobile operation in the 10th and 11th regions of southern Chile. It is a 7-10 day road trip travelling north to south, through the Andes Mountains on the “Carretera Austral” (Southern Highway). The scenery is unlimited and unforgettable.

We stay in several different locations, including bed and breakfasts, authentic local hotels and a private farm house. All accommodations are comfortable and modern, but you’ll always know that you’re in Southern Chile.

Our staff of 5 caters to a maximum of 4 anglers to ensure exclusivity, quality of fishing and service.

You will have the opportunity to fish 6-8 days in several different locations. The diversity of fisheries offers the angler a little of everything, from big water to small streams, from day float trips to walk-and-wades.

Species range from browns, rainbows and brook trout to Chinook and Atlantic salmon, depending on the time of season.

Our Location

Where Exactly

Chile West is a custom mobile program, unlike fixed-base lodges which can sometimes be limited due to Chilean Patagonia’s ever changing weather and water conditions.

The trip takes place between 43-45 degrees south and 71-73 degrees west, starting in either Alto Palena (10 day trip) or La Junta (7 day trip) and ending in Balmaceda.

We travel south through the Andes Mountains, along the Carretera Austral or Southern highway, staying in four locations within the Lakes and Aysen regions of southern Chile.

Other Detail

Carretera Austral - From <http://www.allsouthernchile.com/southamerica/carretera-austral/index.html>:

The Austral really starts south of Puerto Montt, and then branches off from Chaiten at Santa Lucia. The road west in to the mountains leads towards Futaleufu and the boarder with Argentina. The turn south puts you on the real Carretera Austral that leads to the city of Coyhaique, Chile Chico, and Cochrane and ends at Puerto Yungay. If you want to go further south than that you will have to either swim or drive through Argentina.

It is strange to talk to people that are relatively young at just over fifty plus years old and have them tell stories of 15 day journeys on a horse to reach town. It would seem a something from the 19th century, but they are really just speaking of the 1970's and 80's. The Austral highway changed the lives of the people in Patagonia forever.

Still, calling the Austral highway a “highway” is a bit of stretch. It is really an unpaved dirt road the cuts through the heart of the Northern Chilean Patagonia (a good dirt road). Among young Chilean university students it has been a tradition to backpack the Carretera Austral since it was built. In





places like Santa Lucia, you will see small armies of backpackers with their thumbs out looking for a ride south deeper in to Patagonia in the mornings. Also along the Austral you will see a steady stream of foreign bikers working their way through Patagonia as they finish their bike tours of South America or Latin America.

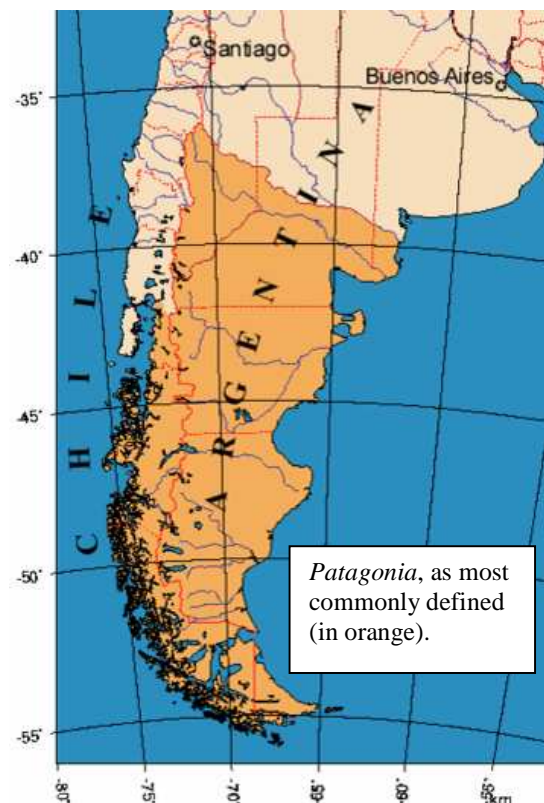
In the summers, and the summer is the best time to go, the Austral crosses some of the best fly fishing rivers in Chile. The Palena river is famous for its Trout and Salmon. The Austral also crosses one of the worse fly fishing rivers in Chile, the Rio Frio (The cold river). The Rio Frio is too cold to support trout because there is insufficient food for them to eat. So, not every river in Chile is full of trout. Fly fishermen need to pick their rivers carefully.

The town of La Junta is where three rivers come together: the Palena, the Frio, and Oeste rivers. It is a relatively large town by Patagonia standards with a few restaurants, a gas station, Internet, cell phone service, and lots of places to stay. La Junta is also the first major town as you enter the Aysen region of the Chilean Patagonia from the North with a population of about 2,000 people.

The biggest thing you will find along the way, and the photos will not do just to it, is the spectacular beauty of Patagonia.

For a history of the Carretera Austral visit:

http://www.tourismchile.com/en_turismo.php?id_nodo=130&show=articulos&id_articulo=675



Patagonia - From <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patagonia>:

Patagonia is a geographic region containing the southernmost portion of South America. Mostly located in Argentina and partly in Chile, it comprises the Andes mountains to the west and south, and plateau and low plains to the east.

To the east of the Andes, it lies south of the Neuquén River and Colorado rivers, and, to the west of the Andes, south of (39°S), excluding the Chiloé Archipelago.

East of the Andes the Argentine portion of Patagonia includes the provinces of Neuquén, Río Negro, Chubut, Santa Cruz, and Tierra del Fuego, as well as the southern tips of the provinces of Buenos Aires, Mendoza and La Pampa.

The Chilean portion embraces the southern part of the region of Los Lagos, and the regions of Aisén and Magallanes.

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Patagonia is for the most part a region of vast steppe-like plains, rising in a succession of abrupt terraces about 100 metres (330 ft) at a time, and covered with an enormous bed of shingle almost bare of vegetation. In the hollows of the plains are ponds or lakes of brackish and fresh water.

Towards the Andes the shingle gives place to porphyry, granite, and basalt lavas, animal life becomes more abundant and vegetation more luxuriant, acquiring the characteristics of the flora of the western coast, and consisting principally of southern beech and conifers.

At Puerto Montt, on the inlet behind Chiloé Island. The main annual temperature is 11 °C (52 °F) and the average extremes 25.5 °C (78 °F) and -1.5 °C (29.5 °F).

Vehicles

The vehicles we use have been purchased with the “Carretera” in mind. We have two 4x4 Double cab pickups. These are used to transport the majority of the gear needed for the 10 day trip.

We have a 4x4 8-passenger van to transport you the anglers. There is plenty of room for 4 and luggage and a window seat for everyone on the spectacular scenic trip.

The trucks will be driven by the guides who drive to the river ahead of time, where possible, to rig up the boats.

The van transports you, the angler, to the river in the morning to arrive to the guides ready and waiting. This gives you a few more minutes to put on your game face.

At the end of the day you step off the boat and drive home. The guides do the rest. All you need to do is relax, tell stories, have refreshments or a quick nap and get ready for dinner.

Watercraft

We have four inflatable watercraft: Two 14ft Tributary series self bailing rafts and two 18ft Aire cataracts. The frames are NRS brand, strategically designed alleviate line tangles, mix and match for use on both raft and cataract and to break down to fit into the back.

You will need a passport for this trip!

Travel Logistics

Flying to Santiago, Chile

Clients fly to Santiago, Chile. There are many airlines that fly into Santiago, including: Lan, Delta, American and Continental.

During your flight you will fill out a “Tourist Form” and “Customs Declaration Form”. Do not claim feathers, fur, etc... on your entry card that you fill out on the plane. If you are asked at customs in Santiago, just say fishing gear.

Upon arrival in Santiago, disembark plane and follow the signs to “Customs/Entry Point”. Have your passport ready with the “Tourist Form” that you filled out on your international flight.

If you are a U.S. citizen, entering Chile for the first time, you will be charged \$100 first time entry fee. This is good for the duration of your passport. This can be paid (with exact cash in dollars or your credit card) at the counter to the left.





At check point you will retain a copy of the “Tourist Form”. This is the form you filled out on the plane. Do not lose this. Keep it in your passport. You will need it when leaving the country.

There is a money exchange just after check point. It is not necessary but, if you like you can exchange money, we suggest only \$100. The exchange rate is subject to change, please check prior to trip. All airport restaurants take U.S. dollars.

After passing through “Customs” continue to “Baggage Claim”. Get a cart and pick up your luggage.

Proceed to Customs baggage check. Have the “Customs Declaration” form ready here. You will have to put your luggage through the scanner just before exit. If asked “what is in your bags” say fishing gear.

Proceed to exit. A porter will usually try to help you take your bags to the check-in counter. You can let them, but they are expecting a tip. You shouldn’t need help.

Exit and go straight ahead to the elevators. They will be on your right just a few yards down. Take the elevator to the 3rd floor.

At the 3rd floor, exit the elevator and turn to your right and proceed to the end. National flight check-in counters will be at the far end of the lobby on the left.

Remember the Time Zone change!

Flying to Balmaceda

From Santiago, you fly to Balmaceda. There are 2 airlines flying from Santiago to Balmaceda: LAN and Sky Airlines.

If flying LAN from the US, you can check your baggage all the way through to Balmaceda. Keep your checked baggage receipt. This way you can prove that you paid for the baggage to be checked through. You may need to show this in Santiago when checking in for your Balmaceda flight. LAN is the only international airline to fly to Balmaceda.

Remember you still have to pick up your luggage in Santiago and re-check it.

Check-in and make sure they don’t charge you again for extra baggage, if you have it. You saved your receipt right?

After you’ve checked in, your gates will be to your right, marked National Departures. If you have a lengthy lay-over, don’t go through security right away. There are various places to eat with most menus in English.

There is a restaurant just inside to the right of where you checked in. There is a huge stack of suitcases from the floor below you. This place has a decent breakfast buffet. Above International departures at the opposite end of the airport is another restaurant, “The Gatsby”, food is good but service is slow. If you don’t have much time, don’t go there.

After security check to your gate, there is a Starbucks downstairs along with a few other small shops.

Your gate number usually won’t appear until an hour or so before your boarding time.

Upon arrival in Balmaceda, disembark plane and proceed to baggage claim. Pick up your luggage. *Make sure you have it all.*





Upon arrival in Balmaceda, you will be met by our staff and driven to La Junta.

Baggage

Pack light. National flights within Chile limit you to 20 Kilos (44 lbs). This may or may not be enforced; but, if your baggage is in excess of the 20 Kilos, be prepared to pay extra baggage fees.

Extra baggage fees may be charged on the Balmaceda flight. Remember, try to pack light.

Our Facilities

We stay in various locations, including: cabins, hotels and private home. All accommodations are excellent. Anglers room in double occupancy in all locations.

Hotel rooms are complete with private bathroom, television, telephone and possibly Wi-Fi. Each cabin has a private bathroom, kitchenette, woodstove and DVD player. Do not plan on having access to a phone. Private house accommodations are more limited, with shared bathroom space, and no television.

Meals are prepared by the Chile West staff or hotel staff. In some cases we may opt to dine out. Lunches are served each day on the river.

Fishing at Chile West

For your convenience fishing licenses will be purchased for you in Chile.

You will have the opportunity to fish 8 days with the possibility of fishing 8 locations. The diversity of fisheries offer the angler a little of everything - from big water to little streams, from day float trips to walk and wades.

Our staff of 5 (manager, driver, 3 guides) caters to a maximum of 4 anglers to ensure exclusivity, quality of fishing and service.

Manager Chris Price has many years of experience in Chile and is now a resident living in Coyhaique with his and three daughters. Chris has spent the last nine seasons fishing and exploring the southern regions of Chilean Patagonia, putting the pieces together for what is now Chile West. He has worked as a restaurant chef, fishing guide and mechanic and can easily coordinate the daily events.

Our driver is a local Chilean - an experienced driver on the Carretera and has also worked as a fishing guide. The guide staff consists of two experienced Alaskan guides who have helped research and develop the program and a local Chilean guide with years of experience in the region.

Fishing Around Palena (10 day trip only)

Arriving in Alto Palena, you are met by the Chile West staff. We drive about 3 minutes to what is our home base for the next three days.

Anglers stay in cabins complete with woodstove, kitchenette, television and even a DVD player. In Chile we run on 220 volt power, so bring voltage converters for any electronics you may want to bring. If you need, there are phone and internet services in town just minutes away.

After we settle in, you can relax and chat with the guides about flies and the next day's fishing, over a Pisco Sour, a national Chilean cocktail, a glass of Chilean red wine or your favorite beverage.





The evening is topped off with a Chilean BBQ called a “parrillada” (par-ee-yah-da). Afterwards you’ll want to get a good night’s sleep before for your first day of fishing. Your rooms are neat and comfortable with a private bathroom.

In Palena, we have two fisheries, a day float on the upper Rio Palena and a walk and wade day trip on the Rio Tigre.

The upper Palena is a full day float. The drive is approximately 3 minutes to the boat launch, and the take-out is a 30-minute drive back home. You fish under canyon walls and streaming waterfalls while catching Browns and Rainbows.

The Rio Tigre is a walk and wade located approximately a 30 minute drive east. Here you find a gin-clear stream filled exclusively with Brook trout. Leisurely walks take you to various pools, where the Brookies readily take dry flies.

Fishing Around La Junta

On day four, after breakfast, we load up and drive to our second destination, La Junta (La Hoon-tah). The drive passes along the south end of Lago Yelcho. Formed by the Rio Futalefu and many other tributaries, this is one of the largest lakes in the area.

Continuing west, to the Carretera Austral, we travel south to La Junta, down the scenic Palena valley. This huge valley is home to the Rio Palena, the largest river system in the area.

Upon arrival in La Junta, since this is a travel day, we drive directly to the river. We fish within minutes of town, giving you maximum time on the water. While you are fishing, we check you in at the local hotel.

After the day’s fishing, a short drive brings you to luxury small, comfortable local hotel. Here you have all the amenities - bar, restaurant, television, telephone and internet. After dinner you find your room complete with television, telephone and a private bathroom. You can even order coffee service for the morning.

The morning of day five, after a continental buffet breakfast, we’re off to the river. Here in the La Junta area, we have numerous fisheries, from big rivers to little streams. Again, with the design of the equipment, depending on conditions and your desires, we give you the best options. Drive times vary from five minutes to two hours.

The Rio Palena is the largest of the rivers we may fish. It offers day floats and wade fishing for Brown and Rainbow trout. You might even catch a King salmon depending on the time of season.

The Rio Rossalot is short river, medium to large in size. Here we offer day floats, fishing for Browns and Rainbows.

The Rio Pico is a small river which offers both day floats and walk & wade fishing. This is a classic dry fly fishery for Browns and Rainbows.

Fishing Around Cisnes

Day six is an early rise. After breakfast, we load up and continue to our third destination the Cisnes area. The drive takes us further south on the Carretera, into the Queulat (Kay-oo-lot) national park,





passing through the town of Puyuhuapi (Poo-you-hwapee). One of the first German settlements to the region in the early 1900's, this small fishing village is nestled at the north end of the Puyuhuapi fiord.

Continuing through the park, we travel along the fiords of Puyuhuapi and Queulat. The fiords offer some awesome scenery. Often times we see porpoises and sea lions just off the roads edge.

Driving east, away from the fiords, the Carretera winds deeper into the heart of the Andes, through valleys of dense forest, snow capped peaks, glaciers and waterfalls. ¡Espectacular!

During the day, we have gone from sea level at the fiords, to an elevation of two thousand feet, over the Queulat pass and back down to where we meet the Rio Cisnes. This is our third destination.

Upon arrival, you can opt to go directly to the river and launch for a day float or you can relax and fish the afternoon on the properties' private lake.

For the next two days, we have rented a "cabin" style house for our stay. We are bit more isolated here. There are no phones, internet or television and we use a generator for power. Not to worry, the accommodations are every bit as comfortable. We are on our own here. The guides do the cooking using a wood fired stove. It's just like a cabin in the woods.

On day seven, like the previous locations, we have multiple fisheries to choose from. The middle section of the Rio Cisnes is medium in size. A short drive up river, we launch on a day float which takes out just below the house. Fishing dries, nymphs and streamers for Brown trout is the game here. There is also a good run of Chinook salmon. Depending on the month, you might want to give them a shot. In the fall, it's pretty cool to see these monsters doing their thing on the spawning beds as you float by.

Lago Las Torres is quick drive south. We fish Damselfly and Dragonfly dries or nymphs or leeches on the edges of the lake. The reed beds offer good cover for both fish and insects.

The upper Cisnes usually offers a drier climate. Flowing from the pampas of Argentina and through Chile to the fiords, the river is much smaller in comparison to the middle section of the river. This is classic dry-nymph dropper water. We float through wide open valleys to small boxed in canyons.

The head waters of the Rio Manihuales (Man-yee-hwall-ace) offer float trips or walk & wades depending on water conditions. This is another classic stream for fishing dry flies and nymphs.

Fishing Around Coyhaique

The morning of day eight we travel to the fourth and final destination. Again, trying to give you maximum time on the water, we stop in the Manihuales area to fish.

The Manihuales area is hands down the most beautiful valley you may ever see. In the spring months of December and January, Arctic Lupine is in bloom, literally everywhere. We can't describe it to you nor does a photo do it justice. You have to see it to believe it. It's just awesome!

Here we have day float options or walk & wade fishing. On the Rio Manihuales we fish one of three float trip sections. Brown and Rainbows eat the usual fare.

The Rio Emperador Guillermo (Gee-yar-mo) is another favorite. This is a small, walk & wade stream offering a variety of water. There are classic runs to deep pools and pocket water full of Browns. You might even hook into a Rainbow.





From the Manihuales valley, we continue to Coyhaique (Koy-hi-kay). Coyhaique is a large city by Chilean standards, with a population of approximately 50,000.

For the last two nights of the trip, you stay in a local hotel. The accommodations are again, excellent. We can dine in the hotel or out on the town. The rooms are complete with television, telephone and internet access, as well as a private bathroom.

The morning of day nine, after a buffet breakfast in the hotel's restaurant, we depart for the final day of fishing. We can take you back for another shot at the big one you missed yesterday or show you something you haven't fished.

Day ten is all high fives and good-byes. After breakfast, we drive 35 miles southeast to the Balmaceda airport. Balmaceda is located just minutes from the eastern border of Chile. From here you fly back to Santiago.

Season Schedule

Our season starts in November and ends in early May. Anglers will catch Browns, Rainbow and Brook trout all months of the season. Chinook salmon are fresh from October to December (and into January).

Catch and Release

Chile West adheres to a strict catch and release policy for all species.

Gratuities

For anglers who feel that they have received good service, tipping is customary at Chile West. Tips are all pooled and divided evenly between everyone who contributes to your experience during the week, including guides, housekeeping staff, restaurant staff, etc.

We are often asked for a guideline on tipping, so we let anglers know that our average tip per angler for a week of fishing is \$550.

We encourage you to tip at a level that you feel is consistent with the service that you received. Tips are collected at the end of your week. **Chile West strongly prefers cash for tips** – either US dollars or Chilean Pesos. For guests who don't bring cash, gratuities can be processed at the end of the week via credit card.

Alcohol

Alcohol is available in all restaurants and is easily purchased. Chile West provides beer, wine and liquor - but not in excess. We will have local brands. Bourbon and blended whiskies are hard to find. If you want to have your favorite brand, we suggest you bring it.





Packing List

Gear List/What to Bring

Chile West is very remote. You can purchase certain items in the airport in Santiago, but the selection and availability is limited. Tobacco products, film, batteries and fishing gear should be purchased in advanced of your trip. Use the Santiago airport as your **last** supply stop.

We recommend water-repellant luggage with soft sides. Always have your rain gear near or at the top for easy access.

Weather in Chile is very unpredictable. Whenever you visit, be prepared for highs in the 80s and lows in the 40s. January and February are typically the warmest months, with cooler temperatures in November, December, March and April. Always be prepared for rain and wind. No Chilean goes anywhere without good rain gear. Camp clothing should be casual and comfortable.

Remember to keep all important medications separate from your luggage. Because we are exposed to the elements even around camp, warmth and dryness should be considered in all clothing choices. We recommend layering your clothing for warmth and versatility.

Packing List

In-Camp Gear		On-River Gear	
	Jeans		Fleece tops and bottoms to wear under waders
	Long Sleeved shirts		Polypropylene long underwear
	Sweater		Sweater
	Socks		Vest or warm jacket to wear under your raincoat and waders
	Underwear		Light weight pants "Flats" type w/ zip off pant legs
	Casual shoes		Warm socks – several pairs
	Wading sandals (for fishing and travel)		Warm, waterproof and lucky fishing hat
	Light weight jacket		Warm fishing gloves
	Toiletries		Rainwear - Gore-Tex and other breathables are best
	Camera		Waders - Gore-Tex and other breathables are best
	Film or memory cards		Wading Boots - please no studs as they damage our boats
	Camera Batteries		Polarized sun glasses
	Books or games		Sun block
	Alarm clock		Bag for carrying your gear on boat (dry bags are best)

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Communication and Electrical Devices

All areas, apart from the two days in the Cisnes area, have telephone and internet services. Additionally, we travel with VHF radios on and off the water and carry a satellite phone for emergencies.

In Chile, everything runs on 220 volts. Please bring converters for any personal electronic devices such as cameras, chargers, laptop, etc

Tackle Recommendations

Rods, Lines and Flies

Chile West supplies all leader material and flies for your use, all at no charge. A limited number of fly rods are available as loaners. Please let us know in advance if we can help outfit you for your trip.

The rods, lines and flies you may use depend on the fishery as well as your preference and target.

Rods range from 10 weights. for Chinook (November - December) to 3 to 4 weights for Brook Trout on dries.

King Salmon (November – January)

Fly Rods: 10 weight to 12 weight rods are recommended, with 9 weight being on the light side. In most cases the line and flies are heavy so high modulus good quality rods are best.

Reels: We recommend very durable reels with a strong disc type drag and a large spool capacity of at least 200 yards of 30 pound backing.

Lines: 100 to 500 grain, fast to extra fast shooting heads, and sink tips of 15 to 30 feet are all very common. Versatility is important. An interchangeable shooting head system is a good way to address varied water conditions.

Leaders: Leader should be abrasion resistant monofilament of 15 to 20 pound strength.

Trout

Fly Rods: 5, 6 to 7 weight high quality, fast action rods capable of casting large patterns and heavy nymphs. Trout can range from 8 to 30 plus inches!

A recommended all around trio, if not fishing for Chinook, would be to bring a 5, 6 and 7 weight – a 5 and 6 for dries and nymphs, and a fairly fast 7 weight with a heavy sink tip for hunting “the one” with big streamers!

Lines: A good combination of fly lines to match would be a 6 -7 weight forward floater and a 6 weight Multi-tip for the 5 and 6 wt rods. For the 7 weight you’ll want a heavy sink tip. We recommend a 200-250 grain tip, like a Teeny 200 or a 250 grain express tip.

We like to overload our rods to lessen the false casts and to help turn over some of those really big dries and nymphs.





Flies

Guides have all the flies you need, so you needn't bring any. Below is a list of the "Bread and Butter" flies. Check out your fly box and feel free to bring a few of your own patterns. Something new is always good!

* Note: fly selection depends greatly on water and weather conditions, location and time of season.

Dry Flies

Stonefly Dry #4, 6, 8 - Black, Orange
(Foam w/ Rubber legs is good!)
Turck's Tarantula #6, 8 - Red, Yellow
Elk Hair Caddis #14-16 - Tan, Black
Chernobyl Ant # 4, 6 - Black, Black/Orange, Black/Yellow

Nymphs

Stone fly (bead head) #6, 8 Black, Brown
Prince (bead head) #12

Streamers

Double Bunny Leech (Articulated & Weighted) - #6 Olive/Tan, Olive/Black
** Anything funky w/ rubber legs that wiggle a lot usually work very well!

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