

CHILE & ANDES MOUNTAINS

24-DAY / BACKCOUNTRY SKI

DATES: JULY 23 – AUGUST 15

TUITION: \$5,280

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ Become certified as a Leave No Trace (LNT) Trainer, 1 credit
- ▶ Become certified in Avalanche and Snow Science
- ▶ Receive a certification in wilderness medicine
- ▶ NCOAE Curriculum for outdoor educators, teachers, and trip leaders
- ▶ Gain experience in expedition planning, wilderness risk management, environmental studies, backcountry navigation, teaching in the wilderness, outdoor technology skills, and more

WHY TAKE THIS COURSE?

- ▶ Ski South America's best powder, while gaining backcountry skills
- ▶ Advance your knowledge of outdoor education curriculum
- ▶ Enjoy living and learning Chile's wild, beautiful places
- ▶ Discover areas of outdoor and wilderness education that are best suited to your strengths
- ▶ Acquire the career skills needed to teach and travel in pristine destinations around the world!

WHERE YOU'LL BE:

- ▶ Chile and the Andes
- ▶ Pucón Base
- ▶ Volcan Villarrica and Volcan Lanín
- ▶ Nevados de Chillán



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Explore Chile! UNCW and The National Center for Outdoor & Adventure Education (NCOAE) invite you to kick off your summer with a backcountry adventure. Earn credit, while skiing South America's best powder and learning how to explore backcountry like a pro.

Explore the Andes, the second largest mountain range in the world, offering seemingly endless backcountry exploration. The surrounding volcanos make fantastic features for skiers, while offering opportunities to explore the magnificent, volcanic formed gulleys and steep terrain. Approaching wilderness as a classroom, the course offers an unprecedented environment for learning. Plus, the volcanos rise up to 33% higher than the surrounding Andes, offering backcountry ski descents of over 10,000 vertical feet. Meaning you get that much more downhill time!

“Volcan Villarrica was the single best day of backcountry skiing I’ve done. We hiked to the top, peered down at lava, checked out the 360 degree vista of volcanos, lakes and valleys, and skied for the day.”

***—Anneka Door,
Exum Mountain Guide/Bridger Bowl Ski Patrol***

For complete itinerary details, see reverse side ▶

CHILE AND ANDES MOUNTAINS — BACKCOUNTRY SKI ITINERARY

(Subject to change)

- ▶ **Day 1: After a morning airport pickup, we'll drive 2 hours to Pucón Chile — one of South America's most renowned adventure epi-centers.** NCAOE's chosen destination for our Patagonia operations base is located on the shores of Lake Villarica and at the foot of Volcan Villarica. The small town of Pucón is a year-round, popular, outdoor adventure destination! Stop along the way at a choice café for one of Chile's classic dishes: Empanadas from a mud oven.
- ▶ **Days 2 – 4: Settle in at Pucón base for orientation and classes.** Lesson include introduction to the backcountry, basic camp craft, NCAOE core curriculum, Leave No Trace (LNT) training, as well as expedition planning and preparation. Enjoy post class ski options — backcountry ski Pucón to Chile's Volcan Villarrica. As you hike to the volcano rim you'll see lava and vistas of the surrounding Andes lakes and volcanos.
- ▶ **Days 5 – 9: Multi-day backcountry trekking to Volcan Lanín.** Learn to plan logistics for your Volcan Lanín trip in class. After gear checks, mapping, and trip pack you're off! Travel with your new support team to the Andean backcountry along the Chile — Argentina border. This will be your first multi-day experience in the rugged Andes offering views that you cannot imagine. Remember forever the 360-degree vistas and a remote high-altitude land where the people are as rugged as the mountains. On the trail, you'll practice camp craft and backpacking skills during your multi-day trek.
- ▶ **Days 10 – 11: Resupply.** Return to Pucón base for lessons, held in a geodesic dome built for outdoor educators *and more opportunities to hit the slopes!*
- ▶ **Days 12 – 15: Nevados de Chillán — ranked amongst the top 10 best skiing destinations in South America.** NCAOE realizes that avid

skiers want to sometimes just charge the slopes and ride lifts during this fun, re-energize leg between expeditions. We chose Chillán for its geographical location, world-class skiing, and the fact that the slopes are often not overcrowded. Are you ready for an early morning charge to the top?

- ▶ **Days 16 – 21: Your backcountry adventure will culminate with a multi-day Maipo Valley backcountry expedition.** What if every course finale could be like this? By now, you're conditioned and ready for your biggest test yet. Lying just 90 minutes from Chile's capital Santiago, is the Maipo Valley and river. As you drive toward the Argentina border you begin to gain a sense of the power and energy of the Andes. The road winds, bends and switches back as it continues to go up and up. At high altitude, the air cools and condors and mountain goats appear from thin air. Be careful. This is chupacabra country... Map your course, then plan logistics, coordinate trip food, and lead various legs of the multi-day backcountry experience. Of course, the fun part will be the rewards of the summits and vistas you'll encounter. Enjoy soaking in high Andes hot springs, with your bodies senses fully alive. This is Chile backcountry.
- ▶ **Day 22: De-issue, gear cleanup, and Closing Circle** — where we will celebrate our individual and group accomplishments and hold a one-of-a-kind graduation before departing.
- ▶ **Day 23: Departure from Santiago, Chile.**
- ▶ **Trip Extension Option:** Do you want to ski more of the Chile's best powder? Yes, then request our 4-day trip extension package. We'll take you direct to Santiago's best skiing and rip the slopes for 4 days.