



Backpacking

PATAGONIA

14-DAY

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ NCOAE core curriculum
- ▶ Leave No Trace training
- ▶ Gain experience in expedition planning, wilderness risk management, environmental studies, backcountry navigation, leadership in the wilderness, outdoor technology skills, and more
- ▶ Remote Patagonia trekking

WHY TAKE THIS COURSE?

- ▶ Explore Patagonia's mountain ranges
- ▶ Advance your knowledge of environmental science and outdoor leadership curriculum — while living and learning in Chile's wild, beautiful places
- ▶ Discover which areas of outdoor and wilderness education are best suited to your strengths
- ▶ Acquire the skills needed to travel in remote, pristine destinations around the world!

WHERE YOU'LL BE:

- ▶ Chile and Argentina
- ▶ Pucón Base
- ▶ Volcan Villarrica and Volcan Lanín
- ▶ Villarrica National Park



NCOAE The National Center for
OUTDOOR & ADVENTURE
EDUCATION

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For complete itinerary details, see reverse side ▶

PATAGONIA — BACKPACKING — 14-DAY 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 epicenters.** NCOAE'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 – 3: Introduction to basic camp craft and the NCOAE core curriculum.** Settle in at Pucón base for orientation and classes, where you will begin preparing to become a successful backcountry traveler. Begin with an introduction to the backcountry travel, Leave No Trace (LNT) training, safety procedures, menu planning, gear selection, trip planning, and packing for group expeditions in remote wilderness areas.
- ▶ **Days 4 – 5: Pucón base and Volcan Villarrica.** Trek to the volcano rim you'll see lava and vistas of the surrounding Andes lakes and volcanos. Climb high above the tree line, as you practice your skills and explore the area's rugged landscape.
- ▶ **Days 6 – 9: Backpacking.** Begin your multi-day backcountry trek to Volcan Lanín. Travel to the Andean backcountry along the Chile — Argentina border. Experience views that you cannot imagine — you'll 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 will rely on travel plan design and advanced navigation techniques, all of which we'll teach you. Your next seven days may be spent map & compass skills, advanced backpacking skills, as well as hiking among soaring peaks.

Weather can vary drastically and become treacherously dangerous in the Chilean backcountry, which is why you will learn to be prepared to teach others those same skills. Whatever Chile throws at you, you will learn to endure it and enjoy it with grace and style. It's during these days that you'll be able to hone your outdoor skills and develop your newfound outdoor leadership style. All the while, you'll be practicing the principles of LNT, map and compass navigation, plant and animal identification and backcountry cooking — eating wonderful food you'll prepare.

Learn to use NCOAE's Curriculum to teach others the skills they need to communicate, become leaders in their community, identify their values, and make positive life choices. In short, you will learn to be an exceptional outdoor leader! Tomorrow, you will begin a solo wilderness experience, allowing you to gather your thoughts and think about what you have accomplished.

- ▶ **Days 10 – 12: Solo experience.** Any outdoor course would be incomplete without a solo experience to allow time for processing. During your solo, you'll have time to reflect and enjoy a solitude only found in wilderness. An NCOAE solo experience is a rite of passage that sets you up for success as you contemplate re-entering the 'real world'.
- ▶ **Day 13: De-issue, gear clean-up, and Closing Circle.** After a hearty breakfast, return to Pucón base, where we will celebrate our individual and group accomplishments and hold a one-of-a-kind graduation before departing.
- ▶ **Day 14: Departure.**