

BIENVENIDOS

You will soon be on your way to Argentina, changing seasons in a single day of travel from winter in the United States to summer in South America. There is far more than warm weather awaiting you in Patagonia. You will fish some of the world's best trout streams: the Chimehuin, Malleo, Collon Cura, Alumine and others. And you will be in the very capable hands of the personnel at Chime Lodge, including head guide, Gustavo Sarthou, a native of Argentina, champion rower and long-time guide, as well as our experienced lodge staff and fishing guides.

The lodge is located on the banks of the Chimehuin River (lat=-39.8377489989, long=-71.1741923511), near the famous "Boca" or mouth of the river where it drains from Lake Huechulafquen. "Chimehuin" means "land of the Chime" (pronounced "Chee-may"), who according to legend are spirits or creatures who protect the river and the region. Chime Lodge has embraced this spirit in its vision for conservation in Patagonia. We also sponsor education for our neighbors through our Mapuche guide school.

Once you arrive, the ever-present and spectacular natural beauty, including the rivers, the lagoons, the sky, the forests, the wild flowers and the prairies will overwhelm your senses. There's abundant wildlife too, and you may see Condors, Guanacos, Rheas, ducks, storks, chajas, parrots and wild geese –just to name a few of the species. You will be wined and dined in the Argentine style, enjoying the famous homegrown beef, flavorful fruits and vegetables and the very fine wines.

You may find, however, that the best part of the trip is the new friends you will make in Argentina.

The Argentine people live their lives at a slower pace than North Americans do, which takes some getting used to, but once you make the adjustment you will like it. The day starts a little later and ends later. You generally won't begin fishing until 9.30 or 10 am. There's no need to rush to the rivers as you should have them pretty much to yourself, and the action frequently accelerates as the sun warms our coldwater fisheries. You will fish until the early evening most days, some 8 or more hours on the water.

In the pages that follow we provide useful information about Buenos Aires, Junin de los Andes, Patagonia, the Lodge and other activities such as riding, hiking, sightseeing and shopping. The Patagonia region of Argentina provides an abundance of marvelous opportunities for the traveler and you will experience many of them. You are likely to react as we have and be planning your next trip before this first one comes to an end.

Arrival in Buenos Aires from the United States

Your international flight typically will arrive in Buenos Aires between 6 and 10 am. All international flights arrive in Buenos Aires at Ezeiza International Airport (the airport's official name is "Ministro Pistarini", code EZE), which is about 40 minutes driving time from downtown. (Note that there is another airport in Buenos Aires for domestic travel: Aeroparque Airport (code: AEP). Flights to Patagonia and back to Buenos Aires originate at Aeroparque as described further below.)

Upon landing at Ezeiza on your initial arrival into Argentina you will go through immigration. The process is easy –just have your passport and immigration document (which you will fill out on the airplane before you land) ready for the official as you approach the counter. Because several flights from the United States can arrive at the same time, there may be some delay going through immigration.

The next step is to retrieve your luggage from the carousels. There will be rental carts nearby and the machines accept dollar bills and credit cards. Once you have your bags you will go through customs. We've never been stopped or had our bags searched but it's possible that this could happen to you. Chances are that they will just wave you through. Just outside customs you will enter a small area where you can make arrangements for transportation to the downtown and hotels if you have not done so already. To ease your transfers, we suggest making a reservation in advance through:

Manuel Tienda Leon [HYPERLINK "http://www.tiendaleon.com.ar" www.tiendaleon.com.ar](http://www.tiendaleon.com.ar)

Prana Turismo ([HYPERLINK "http://www.pranaturismo.com" www.pranaturismo.com](http://www.pranaturismo.com))

Swan Turismo ([HYPERLINK "http://www.swanargentina.com.ar" www.swanargentina.com.ar](http://www.swanargentina.com.ar)).

Manuel Tienda Leon has an office on the left side, just outside customs. You can't miss it. Your English-speaking transfer guide from one of these local travel agencies should be waiting for you and assist your transfer to your hotel in Buenos Aires or directly to Aeroparque Airport.

Most of our guests spend their first afternoon and evening getting to know Buenos Aires, and then fly to Patagonia the following day, departing from Aeroparque Airport. Your hotel can arrange taxi service and estimate how much time to allow for this transfer. Buenos Aires is a beautiful, European-style city, with wonderful attractions. It is famous for Tango dancing and an exciting nightlife. Attractions include the Recoleta Cemetery and the Florida Street pedestrian walkway and shopping area.

Recommended Hotels in Buenos Aires

Claridge Hotel: PH. 011-54-11-4314-7700 or 2020 • FAX: 011-54-11-4314-8022 • E-MAIL: reservations@claridge-hotel.com

Alvear Palace Hotel: PH. 011-54-11-4808-2100 • FAX: 011-54-11-4804-9246 • E-MAIL: info@alvearpalace.com

Elevage Hotel: PH: 011-54-11-4891-8000 • FAX: 011-54-11-4891-8017 • E-MAIL: hotel@elevage.com.ar

Four Seasons/Park Hyatt: PH: 011-54-11-4321-1200 • FAX: 011-54-11-4321-1201

Murano Hotel: PH/FAX: 011-54-11-5239-1000/1100 • E-MAIL: info@muranohotel.com

Feirs Park Hotel: PH: 011-54-11-4131-1999 • FAX: 011-54-11-4131-1950 • WEBSITE: HYPERLINK "<http://www.feirspark.com.ar>" www.feirspark.com.ar

A budget conscious alternative is Callao Concord Apart hotel from Vista South America Travel.

PH: 305-266-3029 * E-MAIL: HYPERLINK "<mailto:Barbara@vistasouth.com>" Barbara@vistasouth.com

Travel from Buenos Aires to Patagonia

Chapelco Airport (code CPC) in San Martin de los Andes is the closest airport serving Chime Lodge. Aerolineas Argentinas (HYPERLINK "<http://www.aerolineas.com.ar>" www.aerolineas.com.ar) runs regular commercial flights from Aeroparque Airport in Buenos Aires to Chapelco Airport and back. They may not fly every day, all year long, however, between these airports, so it is best to check the schedule in advance as you make arrangements for your trip to Chime Lodge. You can book directly on-line with Aerolineas, but we have had very good experience finding less expensive fares through travel agents, including Vista South in North Miami (HYPERLINK "<http://www.vistasouth.com>" www.vistasouth.com) and Dannemann Travel in Bariloche – Argentina (HYPERLINK "<http://www.dannemann.com.ar>" www.dannemann.com.ar) It is also possible to fly from Buenos Aires in or out of the city of Bariloche (Code BRC) in Patagonia, but this is further south and requires a longer drive to and from Chime Lodge. Please make sure that you notify us well in advance of your arrival time and flight so that we can arrange to meet you at Chapelco Airport or wherever you plan to land in Patagonia.

Speaking the language

Argentina is a Spanish speaking country, but you need not worry if you don't speak the language. Most of the people you come into contact with will speak some to very good English, starting with the transfer guide who will meet you upon arrival at Ezeiza Airport.

Currency and Paying for Things

The currency in Argentina is the peso and the exchange rate with the U.S. dollar is currently about 3 to 1. We recommend you take as much U.S. currency with you as you are comfortable carrying. You will find that smaller denomination bills are easier to spend; take \$5, \$10, and \$20 bills as well as \$50 and \$100 bills.

You will have access to ATMs in Argentina that dispense pesos and you'll be able to charge things to your credit card when shopping or eating at a restaurant. You might also consider taking along your checkbook. Traveler's checks are not recommended since they generally must be taken to a bank to be cashed and the fee is quite high.

Water

Although water is treated in the hotels and restaurants, it is probably better not to drink the tap water. It is customary in restaurants to order bottled mineral water. Most Argentines drink it "con gas" or sparkling water, but you can order it without carbonation: "sin gas" is the phrase to use. You can buy bottled water in kiosks on the street or from grocery stores to take with you while sightseeing.

Shots

You do not need to get any shots prior to traveling in Argentina.

Electricity

Argentina uses 220 volts instead of 110 volts as in the U.S. If you plan to use a small appliance like an electric razor, you will need to purchase a converter before leaving home to convert the electricity from 220 to 110 voltages. Otherwise, you will quickly overheat the appliance. You will also need some adapter plugs as the outlets are not the same as ours. There are plugs available at Chime Lodge, but you may need one if staying in Buenos Aires.

Weather

Weather conditions should be similar to what they are in Montana in mid July, which means mostly warm and dry in both Buenos Aires and Northern Argentina. In the middle of our summer, be sure to have t-shirts and shorts. Come prepared for the possibility of the opposite conditions as well. Bring a high-quality rain shell and some warm clothes –turtlenecks, long-sleeved shirts and fleeces work well. Layering is the best approach. A pair of hiking boots is a good idea, too. It may be colder later, especially later in the afternoon and early evening.

Food and Drink

Food and wine in Argentina are excellent. Meat is served at lunch and dinner with potatoes ("papas fritas" are French fries) and salads which are very good. Try "ensalada mixta" for a green salad with tomatoes and onions.

When ordering a steak look for "bife de chorizo" on the menu if you want a New York cut and "bife de lomo" if you want a filet.

Wine is "vino de mesa" (table wine) or "vino fino" (served by the bottle). The waiter will ask which you prefer and then the kind: "vino tinto" (red) or "vino blanco," (white). Argentine wine is from vineyards near Mendoza and is quite inexpensive and good. The best known type of Argentine wine is the Malbec, which is a medium-bodied red. "Cerveza" is beer.

Coffee is also very good in Argentina and is served espresso style in demitasse cups or with milk, “café con leche.” A “doble” means coffee in a big cup. Tea is also available. Coffee is often served with “medialunas,” which means croissants.

Chime Lodge offers a mix of Argentine and Italian cuisine, all poured with great Argentine wines. There is a different menu offered each day and if you have special food needs, please let us know well in advance.

Shopping

Shopping hours in Argentina are usually 9 or 10 am. to noon or 1 pm when stores close for the siesta. Shops open again around 4 or 5 pm until 8 pm. Hours are not consistent and you may find that your favorite shop is closed when you want to buy something at the last minute. Argentina uses the 24-hour clock, e.g. 16:30 is 4:30 pm.

Different items are sold in different kinds of stores: cosmetics in the “perfumeria,” drugs in the “farmacia,” bread and cookies in the “panaderia” and film or memory cards in numerous photo stores. There are “supermercados” which sell a variety of goods, but you often need to go to a specialty store to find certain items. It is sometimes difficult to buy over the counter drugs such as Advil, Tylenol or Sudafed; bring a supply with you and, of course, bring your own prescription drugs.

Keeping in Touch with Home

In Buenos Aires you can make long distance calls from your hotel or from phone booths on the street. To use the booths, you will need a phone card available at the kiosks or a supply of coins. In the smaller towns of Patagonia it is more common to see storefront telephone centers where there will be a number of phone booths and these are very inexpensive. An attendant assigns you a booth, which has a meter showing the time and cost of your call. You then pay the attendant. Look for “Telefonica” or “Locutoria” centers throughout Argentina. To make calls from Argentina to the United States you must dial 001– area code – phone number.

Your mobile phone and blackberry or other paging service may work in Buenos Aires and parts of Patagonia, but you should check with your service provider in advance. Chime Lodge will have regular phone availability for international calls at an extra cost.

Internet Access

You’ll have free internet access at your hotel in Buenos Aires. There is also internet access on Chime Lodge but it may be slow compared to US standards. You’re welcome to use the computer at the lodge to send and receive emails.

Rooms at Chime Lodge

Each bedroom at the Lodge sleeps two anglers comfortably in single beds, with an individual bathroom and shower stocked with complimentary soap and shampoo.

Other Lodge Services

Your fishing package includes guided fishing, lodging at Chime Lodge, breakfast, lunch and dinner each day, including wine or beer with dinner. Lunch typically will be simple but tasteful fare served streamside, with your choice of beverages.

In addition, at other times the Lodge offers a bar service consisting of soft drinks, beer and a selection of excellent wines and spirits for purchase by the bottle or the glass.

The Lodge offers laundry service at an extra cost.

Fishing Licenses

Following your arrival at Chime Lodge we will assist you in obtaining a local fishing license, which costs \$ 60 per week or \$ 100 per season. Make sure you have your driver’s license or passport ready (mandatory) to purchase the license.

Tackle Shop and Fly-Tying Bench

The Lodge maintains a limited tackle shop with a selection of fishing accessories, Chime Lodge apparel, sun block and miscellaneous items. In addition, we have a fly-tying bench for your use. Given the limitless abundance of fishing equipment available in North America, anglers generally should plan to bring their own tackle and flies. The town of Junin de los Andes also has a few small tackle shops. Please consult the Andes Outfitters website or call us if you have questions about what to bring. For flies, we would recommend a typical trout fly selection of dry fly attractors (hoppers and Chernobyl ants in sizes 8 to 10; and stimulators, humpies and wulfs in sizes 10 to 12); bead-head nymphs in sizes 14 to 20, tan and olive caddis patterns in sizes 14 to 16; mayfly parachutes, emergers and cripples in sizes 14 to 20); and a selection of streamers (conehead woolly buggers, matukas, muddler minnows and bunny leeches). We will have some local favorites, including green inchworm and pancora crab patterns available for purchase.

Gratuities

To simplify your fishing day, we recommend that you consider leaving a single tip at the end of your stay, which management will distribute among the guides and staff. The amount of any tip is for you to decide, of course, in your sole discretion. As a guideline, we suggest that you consider a gratuity of approximately 10% of the contract price for your trip. You are welcome to reward extraordinary service with a higher tip.

Departure for Home

After breakfast on your final day at the Lodge, you will settle your bill with management (bar tab, phone bill, any apparel or other incidental items purchased from the lodge and gratuities), and then you will be driven to San Martin de los Andes for your departure from Chapelco Airport. (Please note that the Lodge does [not] accept credit cards, so you will need to settle your bill by cash or personal check.) Most guests will fly from Chapelco Airport to Aeroparque Airport in Buenos Aires and transfer to Ezeiza Airport for their international departure flight later that afternoon or evening. Please arrange your transfer between airports in advance and allow approximately 45 minutes driving time between airports. The departure tax at Chapelco Airport in San Martin de los Andes is 4 pesos, and the departure tax at Ezeiza Airport is \$18 dollars. You can get a customs stamp downstairs at Ezeiza for a VAT refund; get the refund itself near gate 9. Please let Chime Lodge know if you would like to book again for next year. We will give you priority for the same week next season if you book with us again upon your departure or promptly thereafter.

Sample Itinerary (7 Days Fishing)

This is a sample itinerary for the purpose of illustration only. These are the waters we typically fish from the Lodge. We may vary your specific itinerary according to your fishing preferences and prevailing weather, temperature, water levels, fish migration and the opinions of our guides. We can also arrange trips to other great fisheries from the Lodge if you so desire.

Day 1

Arrival in San Martin de los Andes at Chapelco Airport (around 2 pm)

Drive to **Chime Lodge**.

After a quick lunch and license purchase in the town of Junin de los Andes we will float the **Chimehuin River** from town to Curva del Manzano ("Apple tree bend"), which is clearly visible from the road coming from Chapelco Airport. We also call this stretch of water "the miracle mile" as it produces a lot of fish, constantly. You can fish both banks, throughout the season. We'll have plenty of time to have a great late afternoon fishing for rainbow and brown trout using floating lines and a "Stimulator-Nymph" combo. Chernobyl ants with a Prince dropper 3' below surface works great too. Late afternoon is spent casting dry flies below the willows.

We'll drive back to the Lodge around 9:30 pm, depending on available light.

Dinner at the Lodge.

Recommended rods: 5 or 6 wt with floating lines and 9' to 12' leaders, or a fast sink tip with a streamer at night.

Day 2

Breakfast at the Lodge.

After breakfast we'll drive to the Lower **Malleo River**. This section of the river is located in the Mapuche Reservation Amutuy Quime. It is wading only. There are hundreds of pools to fish all day long and then some. We'll move around with the trucks to find the most productive pools. A lot of sight fishing is done picking the best and bigger fish. The same Stimulator/Chernobyl Ant/Hopper – nymph combo works phenomenally well. In January and February there is also the incredible green inch worm hatch. If there is a little wind (and there always is in Patagonia) hundreds of tiny olive or chartreuse worms (each about ¾ inches long) fall in the water below the willows. A well placed fly in the right spot often produces really nice rainbows and browns. Caddis and mayflies are ever present in the Malleo. Late afternoon we may switch to a weighted streamer or Pancora crab imitation to try to catch a trophy fish.

Back to the Lodge.

Dinner.

Recommended rods: 4, 5 or 6 wt with floating lines and 7' to 12' leaders.

Day 3

Breakfast at the Lodge.

Our day starts at the Rinconada Bridge, which spans the **Collon Cura River**. This is big water, with fish from 12 inches to several pounds. There are brown and rainbow trout, some Atlantic Landlocked Salmon and Perca, our native fish. Percas put up a nice fight, much like a brown trout, and eat whatever you throw at them. We'll float most of this river and we'll stop and wade the many channels formed around the islands in the river. There are red stag and guanacos on the banks. It is best fished with streamers and either a sink tip or sinking shooting heads with big streamers or Pancora crab imitations; however, if a good hatch occurs, we'll switch to floating lines. During warm days we also use the Stimulator-Nymph combo. There are great caddis hatches late afternoon.

Back to the Lodge.

Dinner.

Recommended rods: 5 to 8 wt with floating lines and 9' to 12' leaders, sink tips type 130 to 200 grain or shooting heads with 4' leaders.

Day 4

Breakfast at the Lodge.

Today we'll drive to **Lake Tromen**, in the shadows of Lanin Volcano and 3 miles from the Chilean border. We will fish the Lake for trophy brown, rainbow and brook trout. This is the place where we can change your perspective of fishing a lake. We'll fish from our rafts casting to submerged logs, weed patches, obstacles and boulders where big trout live. There is a tiny spring creek that can be fished while we cook you an Argentinean Asado (barbeque) for small brookies, or you may fish the outlet of this creek for trophy size trout up to 7 lbs or more.

If you are in the mood of walking, there is a 40 minute walk to the mouth of the Malleo River. Fishing with dry flies sometimes produces nonstop action for rainbow trout and large rainbows or browns early or late in the season.

Back to the Lodge.

Dinner.

Recommended rods: 5 to 7 wt (maybe even an 8 wt) with floating lines and 9' to 12' leaders, sink tips type 130 to 200 grain or shooting heads with 4' leaders with woolly buggers, dragonfly nymphs, muddler minnows, bunny leeches, etc.

Day 5

Breakfast at the Lodge.

Today we'll float the **Chimehuin River**, from Piedra del Viento (200 yards upstream from Chime Lodge) to the Military Bridge. It is an all day float with a lunch break around 1 pm. We'll fish the pools that made Junin de los Andes a world class destination for fly anglers (e.g., Piedras Blancas, Currhue, and Parrot pools). A lot of fishing is done from the rafts but we'll stop at the best spots and wade.

Back to the Lodge.

Dinner.

Recommended rods: 5 or 6 wt with floating lines and 9' to 12' leaders, or sink tips for the streamers.

Day 6

Breakfast at the Lodge.

Our day starts at the confluence of the Malleo with the **Alumine River**. This is big water again, with fish from 12 inches to several pounds. There are brown and rainbow trout, some Atlantic Landlocked Salmon and Perca, our native fish. Percas puts a nice fight, much like a brown trout and eat whatever you throw at them. We'll float most of this river and we'll stop and wade the many channels formed around the islands in the river. There are red stag and guanacos on the banks. It is best fished with streamers and either a sink tip or sinking shooting heads with big streamers or Pancora crab imitations, however, if a good hatch occurs, we'll switch to floating lines. During warm days we also use the Stimulator-Prince combo. There are great caddis hatches late afternoon.

Back to the Lodge.

Dinner.

Recommended rods: 5 to 8 wt with floating lines and 9' to 12' leaders, sink tips type 130 to 200 grain or shooting heads with 4' leaders.

Day 7

Breakfast at the Lodge.

Fish the middle **Malleo River**, with a streamside barbeque. This is pretty much the same (unforgettable) fishing as the lower Malleo River. You'll love to be back on this jewel of a river.

Back to the Lodge.

Dinner.

Recommended rods: 4 or 5 wt with floating lines and 7' to 12' leaders.

Day 8

Breakfast at the Lodge.

Today we will say our good-byes and go to San Martin de los Andes for some shopping and lunch (depending on time of departure flight) and then transfer to Chapelco Airport for departure.

Please consult with the Andes Outfitters website for other suggestions as to what to bring on your trip. Tight lines!

Andes Outfitters

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