



Bike Odyssey

CHE

2468 km
1,534 mi

31,018 m
101,765 ft

28 Nights
29 Days

Bariloche to Santiago

Exceptional. Cycling. Adventures.



THE WORLD'S BEST CYCLING ADVENTURES

Che's recycled 'Bicycle Diaries, 2018' is Bike Odyssey's most expansive, dramatic and physically engaging expedition yet. From Patagonia's purest pleasures, to Isla Negra's haunting Nerudaian poetry, Che tour will envelope you in a unique and spiritual mystery, found only in the unspoilt, enchanted hinterlands of South America.

'The Man' himself was also lured to this Patagonian volcanic wonderland of adventure, cultural discovery and gastronomic hedonism. While our cycling will be tempered by the need to explore the pristine surrounds, in the first week we will ascend (and descend) the height of Mt Everest and in the second, we will conquer in vertical meters, the highest peak of the Andes, Mt Aconcagua (which towers above our final destination).

When we kiss goodbye to the Cordilleran peaks, we will meander between the spectacular, rocky coast line and the delectable delights of the country's finest wine regions. After four challenging and spiritually uplifting weeks, we will enter the city of Santiago, which sprawls below the highest peak outside the Himalayas; a fitting salute to the thirty thousand vertical meters climbed, during an odyssey that defies adjectival parameters!



WHY BIKE ODYSSEY ?

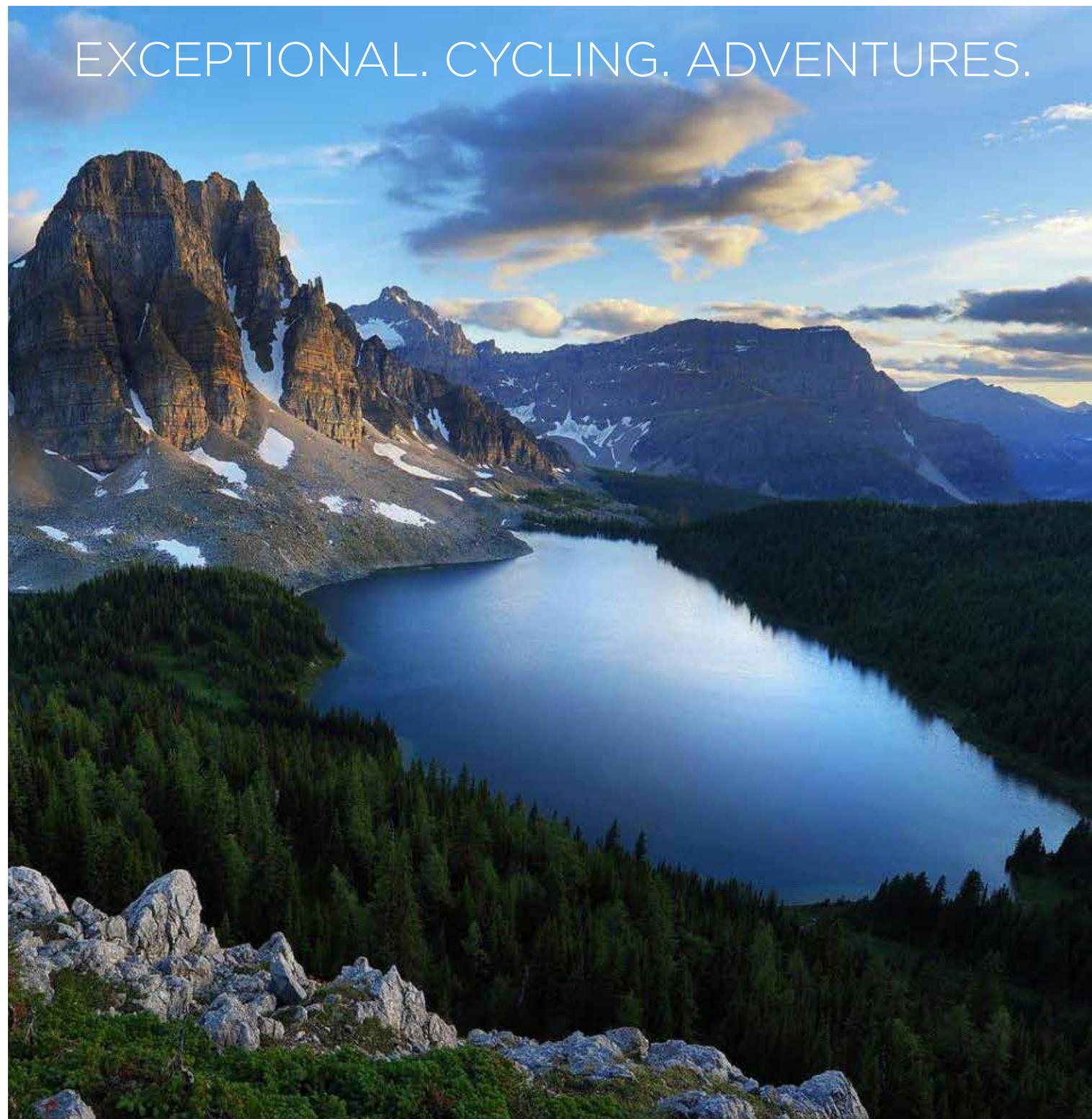
We don't run typical bike tours, we run epic cycling adventures. Our trips are always across continents and through multiple countries. This challenge and the accomplishment which it brings is central to our tours.

Our journeys are chosen by history. Whether this be riding in the footsteps of a famous (or infamous) figure or tracing the history of a region or period, this context brings genuine atmosphere and purpose to our trips.

As for the more 'usual' aspects of the trip. We always ride the road less traveled, the places we stay are unique and the food and drink we consume is chosen with care and enthusiasm to be local and exceptional. Along with this we provide a level of expertise, practicality and comfort that no other cycling company matches. From our specialist guides to our team soigneur, let us take you an exceptional journey you will never forget.



Hannibal was first ridden by Bike Odyssey's Sam Wood for the BBC documentary 'On Hannibal's Trail' currently showing on National Geographic and Viasat worldwide.



EXCEPTIONAL. CYCLING. ADVENTURES.

STAGE 1 - BARILOCHE TO LONQUIMAY

15 days
14 nights

1167 km
725 miles

16,208 m
53,176 ft

- > Catamaraning across the spectacular lake district of Nahuel Huapi National Park, Argentina.
- > Tripple crossing the World's second highest mountain range - The Andes!
- > Circumnavigating the expanse of the famous national park Alerce Andino.
- > Indulge in Argentina's world famous beef, deliciously prepared on their Parilla del Asado (bbq grill).
- > Gaze up at Volcan Villarica, one of Chile's most awesome sights.
- > Looking over the breath taking snowy behemoths of La Cordillera.
- > Rejuvenating at the end of the stage at Corralco Mountain under Volcan Lonquimay.



STAGE 2 - LONQUIMAY TO SANTIAGO

15 days
14 nights

1301 km
808 miles

14,810 m
48,598 ft

- > Visit and swim if you dare in the chilling waterfall of Salto Los Indios!
- > Take a leisurely stroll on a beach to visit the incredible Piedra de la Iglesia (the church rock), or the equally impressive Arco de los Amoros (lover's arc).
- > Experiencing the famous Maule region's mouth-watering oceanic food culture.
- > Ride through the Reserva Nacional Radal Siete Tazas, famed for its rock formations, turquoise pools and (seven!) waterfalls.
- > Roll through spectacular Casablanca Valley Wine Region, tasting for yourself why their wines have such world wide acclaim.
- > Enjoy Chile's grandest port city, Valparaiso, where Che decided to stow away in the bowels of a ship!
- > Finish this epic tour in the Chile's capital and largest city, Santiago - pinned in by the snow-capped Aconcagua on one side and the Chilean Coastal Range on the other.



THE TEAM

OUR GUIDES ARE EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD AND WE PICK OUR TEAMS CAREFULLY SO WE HAVE EVERYTHING COVERED - LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, LINGUISTICS, BIKE MECHANICS, HISTORY AND CULTURE AND OF COURSE FOOD AND WINE. WE ALSO TRAVEL WITH A SOIGNEUR WHEN OUR GROUP IS OVER 18 PEOPLE.

On Che - Bariloche to Santiago we have a special extra member of the team....the coffee van!

Tour Leader Max Hofman

Max is Australian born but has spent much of the last 15 years in Chile. He speaks fluent Spanish and has covered most of South American by bike. He is a highly experienced bike guide and the heart and soul of any tour he leads. His amazing attention to guests makes him much loved and valued by every rider who joins us on tour.

Soigneur

There is nothing quite like riding a challenging day and arriving in a beautiful hotel knowing you have your own personal Soigneur waiting to massage your weary legs! We believe every cyclist should experience this care and once you do it will be hard to go without!

The Coffee Van!

Some guests call this our extra team member! We love their coffee but unfortunately Chile is not yet a cafe culture. Therefore we bring it ourselves and our van is fitted out with a commercial grade coffee machine! Just so we can all enjoy the perfect espresso at the top of any and every volcano we wish!



ACCOMMODATION

A KEY ELEMENT IN ANY GREAT TRIP IS MEMORABLE, UNIQUE ACCOMMODATION. EVERY NIGHT WE STRIVE TO ENSURE THAT YOU DON'T FORGET (FOR GOOD REASONS!) YOUR NIGHT'S STAY. OUR FAVORITE PLACES TO STAY ARE CASTLES, MONASTERIES, PARADORS AND COUNTRY LODGES AND WE AVOID CHAIN HOTELS.

On Che - Bariloche to Santiago the beautiful lodges in the National Parks, designer hotels on the Pacific coast and hip wineries make for some exceptional stays. Here are some places you will stay at on the tour:

Hotel Antumalal, Patagonia.

This exceptional 5* hotel is perched on cliffs overlooking Lake Villarrica is one of our best stays. Queen Elizabeth once stayed here too, drawn by it's exceptional outlook and setting.



Vale Coralco Hotel and Spa, Patagonia.

A fantastic uber luxurious setting for our day off in the middle of the tour! Set under the Lonquimay volcano in the Araucaria forest, you will find it hard to leave!



Hotel Surazo, Pacific Coast.

This beautiful design hotel which capitalises on its exceptional setting on the Pacific was destroyed by the earthquake and tsunami of 2010 but is back looking better than ever!



FOOD AND WINE

GREAT FOOD AND WINE IS ESSENTIAL TO ANY SPECIAL TRAVELLING EXPERIENCE. SO EVERY MEAL ON TOUR IS CHOSEN CAREFULLY, WHETHER IT BE A 5 COURSE DEGUSTATION OR AT A LOCAL TRATTORIA. WE ALSO HAVE SOMMELIERS ON OUR GUIDE TEAM SO AS YOU RIDE THROUGH THE VINEYARDS OR SIT DOWN FOR AN APERITIF YOU'LL HAVE THEIR EXPERTISE AT HAND.

Some of the places we eat on the Che tour are amazing! Here are 3 of our favourites:

Butterfly in Bariloche, Patagonia.

A true Patagonian menu, using techniques from both modern and classic gastronomy this 7 course degustation menu, eaten overlooking Lake Nahuel Huapi is sure to impress.



Cocina Mapuche in Curarrehue.

Run by Anita Epulef this community restaurant serves traditional indigenous Mapuche recipes. This village eatery has a world wide following due to its support for local culture in southern Chile.



Pilar Rodriguez - Food and Wine Studio.

In the heart of the Colchagua Valley in Santa Cruz this by-appointment-only dinner location is a highly sort after. Renown for exceptional wine and food pairing this will be another fantastic night out.



RIDE TIME

WE HAVE TAKEN A DIFFERENT TACT (AGAIN!) WITH OUR BIKES FROM MOST TOURING COMPANIES.

We run exceptional tours. However what we have learnt is that there are a plethora of bike hire companies across Europe and around the world who hire exceptional bikes. Therefore we stick to our tour expertise and rather than own a tired fleet of bikes (check any tour companies fleet and you'll understand what I mean) we engage with the best of these companies to provide you the best options possible and not just one choice. Therefore if you choose to hire a bike from us this ensures you have a choice of the latest models and best brands always. In Europe we have access to Trek, Specialized, De Rosa and Canyon, mechanical and D12.

Chile is however a slight exception to this rule! Therefore we are currently engaging with Specialized to source the perfect bike for this tour.



HISTORY TIME

CHE GUEVARA HAS BECOME A LEGENDARY POLITICAL FIGURE.

Often equated heroically with rebellion, revolution, and socialism, many also remember that he was ruthless and ordered executions without trial in Cuba. However, Guevara's image remains a prevalent icon of leftist radicalism and anti-imperialism.

Che Guevara was born Ernesto de la Serna on 14 June 1928 in Rosario, Argentina. As a student he traveled widely and his worldview was changed by a nine-month journey he began in December 1951, with his friend Alberto Granado. That trip took them from Argentina through Chile, Peru, Colombia, and on to Venezuela, from which Guevara traveled alone on to Miami, returning to Argentina by plane (We only ride the Argentina - Chile Section!). During the trip Guevara kept a journal that was posthumously published under his family's guidance as *The Motorcycle Diaries: Notes on a Latin American Journey* (2003) and adapted to film as *The Motorcycle Diaries* (2004).

During these travels he observed the great poverty of the masses and the state of the Latin American countries. His eventual conclusion was that the only solution lay in violent revolution. In 1954 he went to Mexico, the following year he met Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro. Guevara joined Castro's '26th July Movement' and played a key role in the eventual success of its guerrilla war against

Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista.

Castro overthrew Batista in 1959 and took power in Cuba. From 1959-1961, Guevara was president of the National Bank of Cuba, and then minister of industry. In this position, he travelled the world as an ambassador for Cuba. At home, he carried out plans for land redistribution and the nationalisation of industry.

A strong opponent of the United States, he guided the Castro regime towards alignment with the Soviet Union. The Cuban economy faltered as a result of American trade sanctions and unsuccessful reforms. During this difficult time Guevara began to fall out with the other Cuban leaders. He later expressed his desire to spread revolution in other parts of the developing world, and in 1965 Castro announced that Guevara had left Cuba.

Guevara then spent several months in Africa, particularly the Congo, attempting to train rebel forces in guerrilla warfare. His efforts failed and in 1966 he secretly returned to Cuba. From Cuba he travelled to Bolivia to lead forces rebelling against the government of René Barrientos Ortuño. With US assistance, the Bolivian army captured Guevara and his remaining fighters. He was executed on 9 October 1967 in the Bolivian village of La Higuera and his body was buried in a secret location. In 1997 his remains were discovered, exhumed and returned to Cuba, where he was reburied.





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WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Check out our website at:

www.bikeodyssey.cc/tours/che
for more details on the tour.

Alternatively, contact us anytime on :

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