

BORDER CROSSING VILLA O'HIGGINS - EL CHALTEN **SELF-GUIDED TRAVEL – SEASON NOV 2009 - MAR 2010**

An travel through the Heart of the Andes Patagonian, crossing from the Carretera Austral (Chile) to Los Glaciares National Park (Argentina) between native forests, crosses lakes, lagoons and rivers.

The crossing consists of five segments. The first 7 kms, corresponding to **segment 1** Villa O'Higgins to Bahamondez Port, are fit for bus, cycling or trekking. The following 51 kilometers corresponding to **segment 2** Crossing O'Higgins Lake, only fit for navigation.

The next 22 kilometers correspond to **segment 3** Border Crossing Candelario Mancilla to Desierto lake, wich are fit for horse riding, cycling and walking, continuing with 13 kilometers corresponding to **segment 4** Crossing Desierto Lake, only fit for navigation or trekking, ending with **segment 5** Desierto lake to El Chalten, of 40 kilometers, is fit for bus or cycling.





Villaohiggins.com
Carretera Austral km 1.240. Villa O'Higgins.
Región de Aysén. Chile
Fono fax 56-67-431821 & 56-67-431822
www.villaohiggins.com
PATAGONIA



GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BORDER CROSSING.

- **Duration:** 2 days. (1 DAY RECOMMENDED ONLY FOR PEOPLE WITH VERY GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION).
- **Distance:** 133 kilometers.
- **Difficulty:** Moderate.
- **Start / Finish:**
Day 1: Villa O'Higgins 8:00 A.M.
Day 2: El Chalten 9:00 P.M.
- **Transport:** bus, boat, bike & walk or horse riding.

Warning: Our Company may delay the sailing for up to 24 hours or modify any part of the crossing due to bad weather or unforeseen major force circumstances.

If these circumstances maintain in time, the Company may return the amount paid for the service canceled only. The passenger will not have any right to other indemnities or payments of any sort.

THE TRAVEL.

1.- VILLA O'HIGGINS TO BAHAMONDEZ PORT (O'Higgins Lake Boat Dock)

Distance: 7 KM ; **Condition:** Good gravel road. Great scenery. For Bikes: First 3 kilometers are flat. From Mayer River bridge to the port is hilly with many bends. Easy.

Schedule: 07:50 - 08:05 A.M Bus from each Hostel or camping in Villa O'Higgins.

Journey Time: 15 minutes in bus. 35 minutes in bike.

Fare Bus CH\$ 2.000 (US\$ 4). Booking in Hielo Sur Agency, Villa O'Higgins. Pay on the bus.

2.- BOAT RIDE ACROSS LAGO O'HIGGINS.

Boat "Quetru" (60 passengers capacity).

Schedule: Monday, Wednesday and Saturday during January and February). Saturday in March and April.

8:30 A.M. Departure by boat to Candelario Mancilla Port, passing La Florida Peninsula in route.

11:15 AM. Arrival at Candelario Mancilla Port.

11:30 A.M. Departure by boat to Glaciar O'Higgins, passing in front of the glacier calving area en route.

16:30 P.M. Arrival at Candelario Mancilla Port.

Journey Time: 2:40 hr.

Fare:** - O'Higgins Lake Crossing: CH\$ 40.000; AR\$ 320; US\$ 80. Bikes free.

- O'Higgins Lake Crossing and GLACIER: CH\$60.000 ; AR\$ 480; US\$ 120.

**Booking and Pay In Hielo Sur Agency, Villa O'Higgins.

3.- CHILE / ARGENTINIA BORDER. CANDELARIO MANCILLA TO LAGUNA DEL DESIERTO.

Distance: 22 kms.

In Chile: 15 Kms. Trekking 4 Hr, Horse Riding 2,5 Hr, Bike 3 Hr.; **Condition:** Regular gravel road. First 3 kms are narrow and soft steep. Warning: bridge in km 12. Easy for trekking. Moderate for bikes.



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In Argentina: 7 Kms. Trekking 2 HR. Horse Riding 1 Hr, Bike 2 at 4 Hr **Condition:** The trail is undulating with lots of mud, tree roots and several streams to cross. Easy for trekking, difficult for bikes.

Chilean Border Control: Carabineros de Chile at 1.000 meters from C. Mancilla Port.

Argentinian Border Control: Gendarmeria Argentina in Desierto Lake north shore

Horse riding: Candelario Mancilla to Laguna del. Desierto. ONLY NEXT DAY
O'HIGGINS LAKE CROSSING.

Horse for persons: Fare CH\$ 15.000; AR\$ 90; US\$ 30 for horse.

Horse for bags -60-70 kgs. Fare CH\$ 15.000; AR\$ 90; US\$ 30 for horse.

Lodging: Mancilla family for 5.500 pesos/night. 200 meters from Candelario Mancilla Port.

Camping: In Candelario Mancilla (CH\$ 1.500), in the border km 15 (free) and Desierto north shore (free).

Food: Mancilla family: breakfast: CH\$ 2.000, lunch/dinner: CH\$ 4.000.

4.- BOAT ACROSS LAGUNA DEL DESIERTO.

Boat "Huemul". (40 passengers capacity).

Schedule: North to South: Every Day 11:45 AM and 06:15 PM;

Journey Time: 35 minutes

Fare: \$Ch 13.000.

**Booking and Pay in Hielo Sur Agency, Villa O'Higgins.

5.- LAGUNA DEL DESIERTO TO EL CHALTEN

Distance: 40 kms; **Condition:** OK gravel road. **Drop:** 105 mt.

Schedule: Bus every day 12:30 AM and 07:15 PM;

Journey Time: Bus 1:30 hr. (For Bike 2:00 hr.).

Fare Bus: CH\$ 14.000. Booking and Pay in Hielo Sur Agency, Villa O'Higgins.

Camping: Available at Desierto Lake South Shore AR\$ 25 and Estancia Ricanor (km 22) AR\$ 25

Food: Not available, beverage only at Desierto Campground.

*** TIPS***

Food: Supermarket, Hostels, Restaurant only Villa O'Higgins and El Chalten.

Clothing: Take warm and water-proof garments.

Lodging in El Chalten: Hospedajes B&B from AR\$45 and camping AR\$20.

El Calafate Transfer: Every days (7:30, 8:00, 13.00, 18:00 hrs.). 3 companies (CalTur, Chalten Travel and Taqsa). Rates AR\$70 or US\$20. Duration 3 hrs.

Cicling: Stock-up on supplies in Villa O'Higgins because there is very little available until El Chaltén.

Map: Patagonian South Icefield. Trekking & Mountainering 1:50.000. Zagier-Urruty. Cover all the area between El Chalten and Lago O'Higgins (Candelario Mancilla and Glaciar trails). Satellital views. Buy in Hielo Sur Agency, Villa O'Higgins (\$7.000).

Bank: Villa O'Higgins and El Chaltén, it still has not got certain services of bank, but since February 2009 there is an cash machines (ATM) en El Chalten. CREDIT CARDS: Villa O'Higgins not accept: El Chaltén accepted. MONEY EXCHANGE: In Villa O'Higgins accepted US\$, Euro and Argentinian pesos.