

## BORDER CROSSING VILLA O'HIGGINS – EL CHALTEN. SEASON 2011-2012

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.



### GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

- **Duration:** 2 days. (1 day recommended only for people with very good physical condition and equipment (tent and sleeping bag).  
Start day 1: Villa O'Higgins 8:00 A.M.  
Finish day 2: El Chaltén 9:00 P.M.
- **Distance:** 133 kilometers.
- **Difficulty:** Moderate.
- **Transport:** bus, boat, bike & walk or horse riding.

### THE TRAVEL

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, which 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 Chaltén, of 40 kilometers, is fit for bus or cycling.

### ①.- VILLA O'HIGGINS TO BAHAMONDEZ PORT

**Distance:** 7 KM Drop: 10 mt ;

**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:** 07:55 A.M Bus from Hielo Sur Agency.

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

**Fare Bus** CH\$ 2.000 (US\$ 4).- Pay on the bus.

### ②.- BOAT ACROSS O'HIGGINS LAKE.

Boat "Quetru" (60 passengers capacity).

**Schedule:**

- November: Saturday
- December: Wednesday and Saturday
- January and February 2012: Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.
- March: Saturday

08:30 AM. Departure by boat to Candelario Mancilla, passing La Florida Peninsula in route.

11:15 A.M. Arrival at Candelario Mancilla Port.

11:45 A.M. Departure by boat C.Mancilla to Glaciar O'Higgins, passing in front of the glacier calving area en route.

17:00 P.M. Arrival at Candelario Mancilla Port.

**Journey Time:** Crossing O'Higgins Lake 2:45 hr.  
O'Higgins Glacier Trip: 5:00 hr.

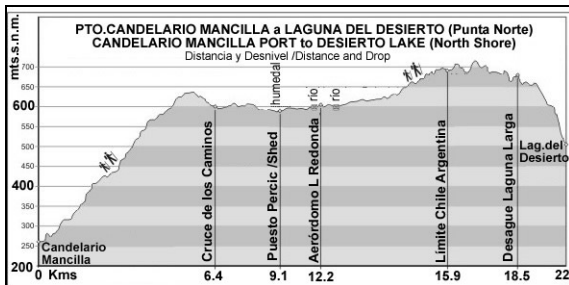
**Fare:**

- Lago O'Higgins Crossing: CH\$ 40.000; AR\$ 400; US\$ 85. Bike free.
- O'Higgins Glacier Trip: CH\$25.000 ; AR\$ 250; US\$ 53.

Booking: info@villaohiggins.com.

### 3.- CHILE / ARGENTINA BORDER. (O'Higgins Lake to Desierto Lake).

**Distance:** 22 kms. Drop: 430 mt.- Meters above sea level: O'Higgins Lake 255 mt. / Town Border 685 mts / Desierto L. 505 m.



**In Chile:** 15 Kms. Drop: 430 mt ascent. Trekking 4 hr, Horse Riding 2,5 hr, Bike 3 hr; **Condition:** gravel road. First 3 kms are narrow and soft steep. bridges in km 12 and 13. Easy for trekking. Moderate for bikes.

**In Argentina:** 7 Kms. Drop 180 mt descent. 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. Moderate for trekking, difficult for bikes.

- **Chilean Border Control:** Carabineros de Chile at 1.000 meters of C. Mancilla Port.
- **Argentinian Border Control:** Gendarmeria Argentina in Desierto Lake north shore

**Horse riding:** Candelario Mancilla to Laguna del Desierto.

Horse for persons: Fare CH\$ 15.000; AR\$ 150; US\$ 30 for horse.

Horse for bags -60 kgs. Fare CH\$ 20.000; AR\$ 200; US\$ 40 for horse.

**Schedule:** ONLY NEXT DAY O'HIGGINS LAKE CROSSING.

**Booking for horses:** info@villaohiggins.com.

**Lodging:** Mancilla family for CH\$6.000 /night. 250 meters from Candelario Mancilla Port.

**Camping:** Estancia Candelario Mancilla (CH\$ 2.000) and Desierto Lake North Shore (free).

**Food:** Mancilla family: breakfast: CH\$ 3.000, lunch/dinner: CH\$ 5.000.

**Maps for border Crossing:** Buy in Villa O'Higgins.

- Patagonian South Icefield. Trekking & Mountainering Escala 1:50.000. Zagier-Urruty;
- Chalten Trekking Maps. Zona Lago O'Higgins, Escala 1:100.000. Chalten Outdoors.

### 4.- BOAT ACROSS DESIERTO LAKE.

**Boat** "Huemul". (40 passengers capacity).

**Schedule:** North to South: Tuesday 18:00 hrs; Wednesday to Sunday 11:30, 15:00 and 18:00 hrs.;

**Journey Time:** 40 minutes.

**Fare:** CH\$ 13.000.

**Booking:** info@villaohiggins.com.

### 5. DESIERTO LAKE TO EL CHALTEN

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

**Schedule:** Bus every day 12:00 hs., 15:30 hs. y 19:30 hs.

**Journey Time:** Bus 1:30 hr. / Bike 2:00 hr.

**Fare Bus:** AR\$ 130 or US\$ 30 .

**Food:** Not available, beverage only at Desierto Campground.

#### \*\*\* TIPS \*\*\*

**Food:** Supermarket, hostels, restaurant only El Chalten and Villa O'Higgins AND El Chalten.

**Clothing:** Take warm and water-proof garments.

**Lodging in Villa O'Higgins:** Hospedajes B&B from ch\$8.000 and camping ch\$3.000.

**Lodging in El Chalten:** Hospedajes B&B from AR\$50 and camping AR\$30.

**Bank:** Villa O'Higgins and El Chaltén, it still has not got certain services of bank, but there is an cash machines (ATM) en El Chalten.

**Credits Cards:** Villa O'Higgins not accept: El Chaltén accepted.

**Money Exchange:** In Villa O'Higgins and El Chaltén accepted US\$, Euro, Argentinian and Chilean pesos.

No traveler's checks accepted anywhere; try *Hielo Sur* for US\$ and exchange Argentinian pesos to Chilean.

Reference 1 USD = 490 CH\$.

**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 Border crossing:** Stock-up on supplies in Villa O'Higgins because there is very little available until El Chalten.