

Bariloche & the Lake District

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Tres Catorce (p398)
- ➔ La Gorda (p372)
- ➔ La Trattoria de la Famiglia Bianchi (p363)
- ➔ Corazón Contento (p381)
- ➔ Nancú Lahuén (p378)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ La Casona de Odile Hostel (p372)
- ➔ Hostel Bajo Cero (p376)
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Why Go?

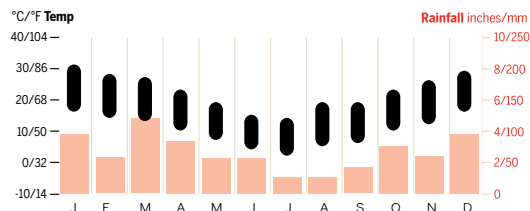
Home to some of the country's most spectacular scenery, the Lake District is one of Argentina's prime tourist destinations. People come to ski, fish, climb, trek and generally bask in the cool, fresh landscapes created by the huge forests and glacier-fed lakes.

The paleontological sites and outstanding wineries just out of the city of Neuquén are well worth stopping off for en route; and way, way south is the resort town of Bariloche, with its picture-postcard location on the banks of the Lago Nahuel Huapi.

Getting away from the crowds is easily done. The lakeside villages of Villa Traful and San Martín de los Andes fill up for a short time in summer and are blissfully quiet the rest of the year. To the north, Chos Malal makes an excellent base for exploring nearby volcanoes, lagoons and hot springs.

When to Go

Bariloche



Mar–May Warm days and cool nights make this a great time to visit.

Jun–Sep Snow season means spectacular mountain vistas.

Oct–Dec Moderate temperatures and blooming wildflowers, so put your trekking boots on.



Bariloche & the Lake District Highlights

1 Driving the **Ruta de los Siete Lagos** (p379), aka RN 40, a breathtaking road winding between alpine lakes and pehuén forests.

2 Soaking your worries away in a bubbling mud bath in the thermal resort town of **Copahue** (p392).

3 Basing yourself in **Bariloche** (p358) for some fun mountain adventures.

4 Getting off the tourist trail in **Chos Malal** (p394) and out into its spectacular surrounds.

5 Following in the footsteps of dinosaurs at **Lago Barreales** (p397).

6 Hitting the hippie market in **El Bolsón** (p371) for fresh fruits and other yummys.

7 Winding down for a few days surrounded by the gorgeous scenery of **Villa Traful** (p377).