

# FUTALEUFU RIVER



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## MULTI-SPORT TRIP PLANNER

Please use this Trip Planner as a resource for general information on your Futaleufu River Multi-Sport adventure. The information enclosed covers most everything you'll need to know before your trip. Of course, if you have questions that are not answered in this packet, we are happy to help! Just call 1-800-346-6277 in the USA or Canada or 1-209-736-4677 if outside the USA or Canada to speak with an adventure consultant, or e-mail us at [info@oars.com](mailto:info@oars.com).

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## TRIP PREPARATION CHECK LIST

- Purchase Travel Insurance:** We require that all participants have evacuation insurance for your protection. If you don't have proof of insurance at the start of the trip, you cannot take part in the expedition. A trip cancellation policy covers your non-refundable payments, in most cases, should you have to cancel your trip at the last minute due to illness or injury. As with most major travel arrangements, there are cancellation fees that will apply regardless of why or when you might need to cancel.
- Trip Forms:** Each participant will need to complete the required trip forms. Refer to your confirmation e-mail for details. Forms must be filled out no later than 90 days prior to your trip. If you are reserving your trip within 90 days, please complete the forms immediately.
- Reserve flights and/or shuttles:** Confirm travel arrangements to and from your departure and return cities. Verify with your adventure consultant that your trip has met minimum numbers prior to booking flights.
- Hotel Reservations:** Reserve overnight lodging for the night prior to your trip, if applicable. You may also wish to reserve a room for the night that you return from the river. It is important to make reservations early as rooms may be limited during peak travel periods.
- Physical Conditioning:** Your outdoor adventure will be an active participatory trip. Regular exercise prior to your departure will certainly add to your enjoyment. Take the time to get into shape with a consistent fitness routine.
- Payments:** Final payment is due in our office 90 days prior to your trip (refer to your invoice for final payment date). Please let us know if you would like us to automatically charge your credit card on file when final payment is due.

## TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

### Meeting Place & Time

People often arrive in Puerto Montt on different airlines, at different times and even different days. This makes it difficult to meet everyone upon arrival. We ask that everyone meet in the lobby of the Paloma Airport in Puerto Montt at 10:30 AM on Day 2. Maria, our representative, will meet you there with an Earth River sign and accompany you to the commuter flight to Chaiten.

If possible, we suggest leaving a day early and staying overnight in Santiago, Puerto Montt or Puerto Varas (a lovely city on a lake, 25 minutes by taxi from the Tepual airport). This will ensure that you are able to meet the group as scheduled and give you a nice break from the long flight down. There are nice craft markets in both Puerto Montt and Puerto Varas. **If you are arriving early, please let us know the name and phone number of the hotel where you are staying so Maria can contact you the day before your flight to Chaiten.**

**Please note:** If you are delayed, catching up can be not only inconvenient but very costly. You may have to overnight in Santiago or Puerto Montt, and you will need to purchase a new ticket to Chaiten and hire someone to drive you from Chaiten to the river. You will be responsible for these additional costs, but Maria will help you make arrangements. Remember, a full coverage travel insurance policy (as opposed to the minimal required medical evacuation insurance) should cover additional expenses due to a delay in flights.

### Flying to Puerto Montt

Paloma Airport in Puerto Montt is the meeting place for your Futaleufu River trip. Airfare from the United States to Puerto Montt is not included in the trip price and must be arranged independently. American, Delta, and LAN Airlines offer service into Santiago and LAN is the major carrier to Puerto Montt.

When booking your flight from Santiago to Puerto Montt, you will need to arrive in Puerto Montt with time to transfer by taxi from the Tepual airport where flights arrive from Santiago, to the Paloma airport for your 11:00 AM commuter flight to Chaiten on Day 2 of your trip. The taxi ride is about 25 minutes and approximately \$20 USD. (Day 1 is the day you depart from the U.S.) If you are not arriving early, plan to arrive on the first flight of the day from Santiago.

Please contact Exito Travel for assistance in making your flight arrangements. Exito has been an airfare specialist to Latin America since 1994. With 15 years regional experience, Exito knows Latin America intimately, along with the region's potential airfare pitfalls and how to avoid them. To obtain a quote, fill out the online request form at: [www.exitotravel.com/affiliate/templateform.php?id=OARS](http://www.exitotravel.com/affiliate/templateform.php?id=OARS) or contact Exito at info@exitotravel.com or 800-655-4053.

*Please do not purchase airfare until your departure has been confirmed by the minimum number of required guests.*

### After Your Trip

At the end of the trip, you will be returned to the Puerto Montt Paloma Airport, on Day 9 by 4:00PM, in time transfer to Tepual airport for connecting flights. Book your flight as late as possible to make the connection (after 5:00 should be fine). International flights returning to the US seldom leave before 9:00 PM, and you will not need more than two hours to make your international connection in Santiago.

### Time Zones

During the summer months in Chile (our winter months) the time is 2 hours ahead of the US east coast and 5 hours ahead of the west coast.

## ESSENTIAL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

### Passport

If you don't have a passport, apply for one immediately because the process can be lengthy. If you do have a passport, find it and check the expiration date. Make a photocopy of the photo page of your passport and carry it separately from your passport. If your passport is lost or stolen, a photocopy will help the local consulate speed up authorization for replacement.

### Visas

You do not need a special visa for Chile, Argentina, or Peru. If you plan on visiting Brazil, a visa must be secured before leaving the U.S. If you are planning a side excursion and renting a car, you should consider acquiring an International Drivers License. The Automobile Club of America (800-222-4357) issues them for a nominal fee. It takes approximately one month to receive your license by mail.

### Mandatory Travel and Evacuation Insurance

Travel insurance that includes medical emergency evacuation is mandatory in order for you to take part in this expedition. You must provide proof of purchase of evacuation insurance prior to the trip. Purchase information is included in your confirmation packet. Coverage for baggage loss, medical protection, trip cancellation, and trip interruption is highly recommended. If you don't have proof of insurance at the start of your adventure, we regret that you cannot take part in the trip. When selecting a policy please make sure you are very clear about what it will and will not cover. No travel insurance covers all scenarios.

## TRIP DESCRIPTION

### Camp Life

After each active day on the river, we spend the night at one of our four unique, private camps. As dinner is being cooked by the kitchen staff, hors d'oeuvres will be served and you will have an opportunity to relax, enjoy the hot tub and a drink if you wish, and reflect on the day with your fellow traveling companions.

In morning, after breakfast, you can ready yourself for the day's adventure as advised by your guides. Guests sleep in hand-hewn wooden cliff dwellings with sleeping platforms six nights and in tree houses (no platforms) one night. Solo travelers will be paired with another solo of the same gender. If there is no one of the same gender, you will not share. On smaller trips individuals often end up with a single dwelling most nights. (The number of tree houses is limited so this is less likely that night.)

### Meals

The meals we serve are hearty and delicious, complete with fresh ingredients and a variety of foods. Each camp has a permanent kitchen from which our cooking staff prepares your meals with a local flair, including daily baked breads, pastries and cakes, and using fresh vegetables, fruit, cheese, meats and fish (all produce and meat in the area is organic and chemical free). For many guests, the last night's dinner, a traditional Chilean Asado featuring locally raised lamb cooked over an open fire, is a highlight of the trip.

### Dietary Restrictions

We need to know as soon as possible about any dietary requirements we should consider in planning your trip. If you have food allergies or restrictions, we will do our best to accommodate your needs. **However, some specific needs can only be met if we charge you a supplemental menu fee to cover our increased costs.** If you are a vegetarian or vegan and you let us know well in advance, we can provide meals for you without additional cost. We cannot always provide for the same diversity or sophistication as our regular menu for special dietary requests.

### **Beverages / Alcohol**

Fine Chilean wine (for which the country is well known) and beer is provided in the evening. For your safety and the safety of others, alcoholic beverages are limited to camp.

### **Boat Type** (see photos at [www.oars.com/our\\_adventures/river\\_ratings.html](http://www.oars.com/our_adventures/river_ratings.html))

The oar-paddle assist raft is the industry standard on the Futaleufu and many Class IV-V rivers. Your guide rows the raft with oars from a rear-mounted frame and paddlers sit up front on the tubes on both sides. This combination rig provides the power and maneuverability to tackle the high volume and in some cases technical rapids of the “Fu.” Participants wishing to experience the river but not paddle may ride through the Class IV sections in the safety cataraft, a more stable, but wetter, ride.

### **Hiking / Side Creek Exploration**

There are hikes included on several days of your adventure. These are moderate to moderately-strenuous. Some are optional hikes around rapids, and others allow for breathtaking views of waterfalls and dramatic mountain peaks. Anyone not wishing to take the moderately-strenuous hike to Tree House Camp may stay at Cave Camp and participate in a variety of activities that include swimming at Lost Beach, kayaking on the Blue Lake or relaxing in one of the hot tubs.

### **Toilets & Bathing**

The relatively luxurious camps on the Futaleufu have outhouses, which enclose flush toilets, hot showers and hot tubs. Due to the relatively dry summer weather in the area, it is important that no one urinate near the cliff dwellings or tree houses. “Pee buckets” (like used in old hotels) are supplied at each dwelling and are emptied each day by our camp workers.

### **For Women Only**

Even if you aren’t anticipating your menstrual period, come prepared for it. We recommend you bring some sandwich size zip-lock bags. They can be used during the day while you are on the river or hiking and can be disposed of when you reach camp. (For tampon users: o.b.® tampons are ½ the size of regular tampons, tuck discreetly into pockets and have less paper wrapping). Many women suggest bringing a small supply of baby wipes. We provide some feminine products on most trips for emergencies.

A number of our female guests have found a feminine urinary device (F.U.D.) very helpful on rafting trips and for camping in general. A F.U.D. allows women to urinate while standing and requires minimal undressing for discreet bathroom use. You can use the device in conjunction with a pee bucket (supplied on our trips) to avoid midnight visits to the privy. Previous guests recommend practicing with the device at home to maximize the benefits on your outdoor adventure. For additional information, see Accessories and Unique Items for the Pee Pod Feminine Funnel in the OARStore at [www.oars.com/OARStore](http://www.oars.com/OARStore). For interesting and informative reviews, search for FUD at [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com).

### **Cameras**

Bringing the right camera equipment and film will determine the quality of your photographs. If you are an avid photographer, we recommend bringing a good digital or 35mm SLR camera to be used on land. If you wish to bring your camera in the boat, you’ll need a soft waterproof case, a small Pelican case ([www.pelican.com](http://www.pelican.com)), or you can bring a disposable waterproof camera to use while on the water. (In the more aggressive stretches of river there will be little to no opportunity to take pictures.)

We are not able to provide a power source for recharging camera batteries. A small solar charger or spare batteries are a good option if you think you’ll need to recharge your camera battery during your trip.

### **Electronics & Technology**

The use of electronic devices, especially music players, on your trip may represent an intrusion into the wilderness experience of your fellow guests. We ask that you please be mindful of the impacts to others and respect the wilderness nature of the trip.

Many of our guests travel with their smartphone even though there is no cell service. On a trip like this, there is always the risk of water damage to smartphones and other electronic devices, even when they are stowed in a dry bag. If you intend to take your phone with you on the river, consider investing in a small, waterproof container just for your phone.

### **Communication**

Once you are on the river there is limited communication with the “outside world.” Cell phone service is not available. Our guides carry radios which reach out to an office with phones in case of an emergency situation on the river. They can call out, but we cannot call them. If you have someone that needs to contact you about an emergency at home, they should call our office (800-346-6277). If possible, we will relay the message to you. Keep in mind it could be several days or longer before the message actually reaches you. For your family at home you should define for them what you consider an emergency and provide them with instructions to call our office in the event one occurs during your vacation.

### **Weather**

The Futaleufu River is in Northern Patagonia and although December through March are mild months, the weather can vary from sunny in the mid to upper eighties, to rainy in the sixties and even upper fifties. The nights are generally in the low fifties but can go into the forties and on occasion upper thirties. You will get wet from running rapids or possible rain and although the river water is 60 degrees, all participants must wear a wetsuit. (We will supply you with a sleeveless Farmer John wetsuit.) The camps have hot tubs and excellent shelter in case of rain.

You may want to check one week prior to your trip for an up-to-date weather forecast. We recommend you check [www.accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com) for the weather in Futaleufu. On many internet sites it is not possible to get current weather conditions for the Futaleufu area and you will get information for Puerto Montt which is generally wetter and cooler.

## **GETTING READY**

### **Physical Requirements**

Our primary goal is for you to have an enjoyable experience. The nature of the trip is such that it involves some physical exertion and potential exposure to the elements, including cold water, heat, sun, wind and rain. We have experience accommodating people with a wide range of physical disabilities and/or health conditions. However, individuals who are overweight or lack conditioning can endanger themselves, other guests and the guides. Please consult your doctor if you have medical or health conditions that could impact your ability to participate in this outdoor adventure. In general, trip participants must be able to:

- Wear a Type V Coast Guard approved personal floatation device (maximum chest size of 56 inches)
- Climb on and off the boats multiple times each day
- Navigate uneven terrain in camp and on hikes
- Carry your own dry bags (20 – 30 lbs) from the boats to your camping location and back
- Self-rescue by swimming to a boat or to shore in the event of an involuntary swim in a whitewater rapid

### **Physical Preparation**

The Futaleufu Multi-Sport Adventure involves a variety of moderately challenging activities. Whitewater rafting, inflatable kayaking, hiking, climbing, canyoneering, horseback riding, and mountain biking require a combination

of cardiac and strength training. Paddling class IV and V whitewater is demanding and the two to three hour hike up to the Tree House Camp can be arduous. This hike gains 1,500 vertical feet in a relatively short distance (two miles) so participants should be in good physical condition. Guests who paddle the Class IV version and/or choose not to hike to the Tree House Camp should still be moderately fit.

If you are not currently in good condition, you should become involved in an exercise program prior to the expedition. Jogging, swimming, and aerobic exercises will help increase endurance for the activities. Push-ups, sit-ups, and other weight training exercises that increase upper and lower body strength for paddling, and hiking will ensure preparedness for your trip. Most of the physical activity will be at your option, but the activities are always worth the effort. Safety aside, being fit will improve the quality of your experience.

Because half a day is dedicated to raft training, it is not necessary to have previous whitewater experience. We have had many first time rafters paddle the entire Futaleufu, but this is up to the guides and the individual.

**Please Note:** Because we cannot screen the paddling ability and physical condition of participants prior to the expedition, the guides will ultimately decide who paddles and where. We ask you to respect their professional opinion, not only for your own safety, but also for the safety of others. The results of your flip drill and swim test will assist the guides in making this determination.

### **Health Information**

There are no required immunizations or health precautions that you need to take when traveling in Chile with the exception of a current tetanus booster, which is recommended for international travel.

Although water in urban areas is generally considered safe to drink we recommend that you either drink bottled water or soft drinks during the land portions of the trip. Water during your expedition is boiled.

If you require medical attention during the trip there are modern hospitals and clinics throughout Chile. We carry a satellite phone and modern hospital facilities are accessible by helicopter within two hours from anywhere on the river.

### **Money Matters**

**Currency** - The unit of currency is the peso (\$ or CHP), which exists in banknotes of \$500, \$1000, \$2000, \$5,000, \$10,000, \$20,000 and coins of \$1, \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100 and \$500. Generally, \$500 will be adequate for the reciprocity and airport tax, shopping and gratuity. If you're planning any side excursions, you'll want to bring considerably more. Remember, Chile is not inexpensive and most things are similarly priced to the U.S. Car rentals and gasoline are considerable higher while public transportation is much lower. You will be able to exchange money when you arrive in Santiago but there is no exchange booth at the airport in Puerto Montt. The exchange rate at the Santiago airport is similar to what you'll find at a bank and much more convenient. ATM's are also available at the Santiago airport and one at Tepual Airport in Puerto Montt. Check with your bank regarding fees you may incur.

**Credit Cards** - Credit cards are widely used and accepted. The most commonly accepted cards are Visa, Master Card, and Diners Club. In medium-sized to large businesses, American Express is also honored. Exchange rates for credit cards are very convenient, but check with your bank regarding foreign transactions fees. Some small, rural towns function solely on a cash-only basis, so have cash handy when going off the beaten path.

**Reciprocity and Departure Taxes** - The United States currently charges Chilean citizens to enter the US. Please be aware that upon entering Chile, US citizens will be required to pay a reciprocity tax of \$140 (payable by credit card or US dollars). This is in addition to the airport departure tax of \$26 you will be charged upon leaving Chile. The departure tax may already be included in your airline ticket. Check with your agent or carrier.

## **We Provide**

- Skilled professional guide service
- All meals from dinner on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 9 with beer and wine at dinner
- 7 nights camp accommodations in cliff dwellings and tree houses (based on double occupancy)
- Top-loading duffel to transport your gear from Puerto Montt to the river & waterproof river bag to hold your gear while on the river
- Sleep kit—consisting of a sleeping bag, flannel sleeping sack, sleeping pad, pillow and pillowcase
- Personal flotation device (PFD) which must be worn at all times on the river in compliance with safety regulations
- Farmer John wetsuit
- Camp chairs
- Eating utensils, cups and plates
- Highest quality inflatable rafts and kayaks, and related equipment
- All activities, instruction and related equipment as outlined in the itinerary
- Round trip commuter flight from Puerto Montt to Chaiten
- Ground transportation from Chaiten to the river and back

## **Optional Extras**

- Masseur \$45/hour US\*
- Videographer \$200 US\*

\*Occasionally on small or overlapping trips a masseuse or videographer may not be present

## **PACKING FOR YOUR TRIP**

### **Clothing**

**During the day** – Start with a swimsuit and/or swim trunks and synthetic shirt as a base layer. Additional layers, like long underwear, fleece and rain gear, can be added and subtracted depending on the weather, temperature and how wet you're getting in the rapids.

### **Paddle jacket**

It is mandatory to have a waterproof paddle jacket on the river. This will keep you warm and relatively dry and is worn over your synthetic shirts, which are worn over the sleeveless Farmer John wetsuits supplied for you. There are a variety of good models on the market and you should look for one with secure closures at the neck and wrists.

### **Raingear**

A good paddle jacket will not adequately substitute for a rain jacket because they often don't breathe and do not have a hood. Therefore, you may want to bring a rain jacket in case it rains for in camp and on the hike up to or back from the Tree House Camp. Ponchos are clumsy and are not adequate. It is also important to have high quality rain pants so that when you are hiking the water does not run down your rain jacket and soak your pants. You will be wearing an ankle length wet suit on the river so the rain pants will only be used if it rains on the hike up to the Tree House Camp.

**In camp**—After a long day of activities, you will want to refresh and change into clean comfortable clothing. Soft, loose-fitting shorts or pants, t-shirts, etc. will allow you to truly relax in the evening. You will want to have something dry and warm such as long sleeved shirts, pants, and fleece.

### **Footwear**

**During the day**—Make sure your river shoes have a substantial sole, adequate foot protection and good ankle

support. They should stick well to wet rocks and should not come off in a strong current. The water in the river is not that cold (60 degrees) so you do not need any kind of wetsuit booties. River sandals are fine around camp but are not suitable river shoes because they do not protect your feet and are difficult to swim in should you unexpectedly find yourself in the water. Teva makes several types of amphibious shoes that drain water well and have good traction. We have long been a fan of the Five-Ten Runamuck model shoes which work on the river, canyoneering, for the hike to the tree-house camp and for which you will find multiple uses when you return home. No longer manufactured, they are still available, but if you can't find them the newer Savant is a good choice. This is the only shoe on the market with "Stealth" soles designed to stick to wet rocks. Stealth soles are a necessity if you are planning on canyoneering.

***In camp***—We recommend wearing shoes in camp due to risk of kicking a rock buried in the sand, or stepping on a sharp stick. The athletic shoes or light hikers you bring for hiking can double as your camp shoes. It's nice to put on dry socks and shoes after a day on the water. Flip flops or "Crocs" are OK for wearing in camp only.

***Please note:*** If you buy new shoes or sandals for the trip, make sure you break them in first!

### **Headwear**

***During the day***—Wide-brimmed hats are a good choice for sun protection. Ball caps are also useful since they fit under helmets, which are required attire when paddling our whitewater rivers.

***In camp***—When the weather is cool or cold, you'll want a beanie-style hat to wear in camp. They are the perfect remedy for bed-head as you rise from your sleeping bag to secure your morning cup of coffee or tea, or for retaining warmth in the evening hours after the sun sets.

### **To Avoid Being Cold**

Synthetic long underwear is a must-have on river trips. It can be worn under shorts, rain gear, T-shirts, etc., then stripped off when the chill of the morning has worn off. It keeps you warm even if it's wet (which can happen easily), dries quickly, and it's compact enough to be stuffed into your small waterproof bag or daypack after you take it off. It can be layered under your **waterproof** rain jacket and pants. **Be aware that cotton items, once wet, do not insulate; only synthetic and wool materials will keep you warm during cool, wet weather.**

**Something warm for your top & bottom:** Although the weather will probably be pleasant, you need to be prepared for inclement weather. Bring a good fleece top and bottom, along with a warm hat and gloves.

### **Sun Protection**

Protecting yourself from the sun should be taken very seriously. A hat, sunscreen, lip balm and sunglasses are a must. In many cases, a long-sleeve shirt is the best method for preventing sunburn on your upper body. Light-weight long pants may also be appropriate to protect your legs. At the end of each day, you will want to have some good moisturizing lotion to replenish your skin from the drying effects of the sun and water.

### **Headlamp**

A good headlamp is a valuable tool for any river trip because it leaves your hands free. It is especially helpful for evening visits to the hot tub or toilet. There are excellent moderately priced models available.

### **Bugs & Mosquitoes**

Bugs and mosquitos are generally not a problem on this trip, although it's a good idea to come prepared with a small amount of insect repellent just in case.

**SUGGESTED PACKING LIST (Bold items are mandatory)****Equipment and Personal Items:**

- Small daypack or large fanny pack**
- Water bottle with locking carabineer (must lock to avoid entanglement in case a boat flips)**
- Headlamp (or flashlight) with batteries**
- Sunglasses with securing strap**
- Toiletries
- Towel: small, quick-drying and washcloth
- Sunscreen: waterproof & SPF 30 or higher
- Lip protection: SPF 30 or higher
- Moisturizing lotion or cream (Skin tends to get dry from water and sun)
- Insect repellent
- Personal first aid kit (Band-aids, antibiotic ointment, ibuprofen, moleskin, eye drops, etc.)
- Spare pair of glasses and/or contacts (Water and sand can cause problems for contact wearers)
- Plastic bags for wet or dirty clothing
- Cash for gratuities and goodies

**Footwear:**

- River shoes**
- Lightweight hiking boots/shoes**
- Hiking socks

**Clothing:**

- Synthetic tops (Synchilla, fleece, pile, polypro or Capilene): 3 of varying weights**
- Waterproof paddle jacket**
- Baseball cap, hat or visor to fit under a helmet**
- Long sleeved shirt (quick drying and light colored to reflect sun)
- Long pants (lightweight and quick drying)
- Synthetic pants (Synchilla, Fleece, pile, etc) to be worn hiking or around camp
- Synthetic long underwear bottom: light to mid-weight
- Good quality rain jacket with hood (paddle jacket will suffice but not recommended)
- Rain pants
- Medium to heavy-weight fleece jacket
- T-shirts or lightweight quick-drying tops: 2-3
- Shorts (synthetic and quick drying): 2
- Undergarments quick-drying
- Socks (synthetic and quick drying): 3 pair
- Cotton/other socks: 2 pair
- Warm hat & gloves
- Bathing suit

**Optional Items:**

- Flip-flops or Crocs® for in camp
- Sarong: also useful as a cover-up when bathing or going to and from the hot tubs
- Bandana
- Camera and accessories
- Binoculars: small
- Paddling gloves: lightweight
- Collapsible fishing rod & flies

- Pocket-size Spanish-English dictionary
- Reading and writing materials

### **Packing Your Gear**

We recommend traveling as light as possible without compromising your preparation for inclement weather and cool temperatures. Excess baggage can be a burden to you and to support personnel. On the international flight you are normally allowed two pieces of luggage, but please check your specific airline for current weight limitation—it changes from carrier to carrier. Each season about two percent of travelers arrive in Chile without their belongings. By the time the baggage is located and returned by the airlines the trip is nearly over. We suggest you protect yourself and pack all necessary river gear—fleece, paddle jacket, river shoes, etc.—into the largest carry-on bag and do not check it. Pack everything else in a regular suitcase or duffel. If you become separated from your checked luggage, you will have most of the essential items for your river trip.

**Please Note:** Because space and weight are limited, you will be allowed one bag, which cannot weigh more than 28 pounds. At the airport in Puerto Montt you will be given a medium size top-loading duffel bag for the trip to the river.

### **Extra Luggage**

After you've transferred your gear to the top-loading duffel bag given to you in Puerto Montt, your luggage and any additional items you don't need can be safely stored with Maria for your return at the end of the trip.

### **Valuables**

We recommend that you leave your valuables at home. Once you reach the river we can collect necessary items such as a wallet, passport, credit cards, etc., and safely store them until the end of the river portion of the trip.

### **Gratuities**

Gratuities for guides and other employees are not included in the trip cost. If you feel your guides and others have done an outstanding job, six percent of the expedition cost per person (or about \$200 US) is considered a generous tip. Gratuities should be given to the trip leader, or head guide, who will in turn distribute it evenly to the other guides and employees. Sometimes a member of the group will collect the tip and give it to the trip leader.

### **Something Voluntary**

In reviewing your statement, you'll note a \$1/person/day donation to FutaFriends, a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to ensure the free flow of the Futaleufu River and to protect the natural resources of its watershed. These funds allow FutaFriends to continue to serve the community and the environment through capacity-building seminars, educational activities, and monitoring programs. One-hundred percent of these funds go directly to FutaFriends, and your contribution is tax-deductible. This donation is voluntary and may be removed from your invoice if you choose not to participate. *Please notify our office if you would prefer to delete the donation from your balance.*

The O.A.R.S. Foundation is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization with the express goal of providing opportunities for young people to experience the magic of a river trip. Visit [www.oarsfoundation.org](http://www.oarsfoundation.org) to learn more about how your tax deductible donation can change young lives for the better.

### **HELPFUL LINKS**

Shop for the latest in top-quality gear for your trip  
Connect with the other travelers on your trip  
Recommended reading list  
O.A.R.S. practices Leave No Trace outdoor ethics

[www.oars.com/OARStore](http://www.oars.com/OARStore)  
[eddy.oars.com](http://eddy.oars.com)  
[reading.longitudebooks.com/O89015](http://reading.longitudebooks.com/O89015)  
[www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)

Watch our “How To Pack For A River Trip” video  
FutaFriends

[www.oars.com/videos/how-to-pack](http://www.oars.com/videos/how-to-pack)  
[www.futafriends.org](http://www.futafriends.org)

## Terms & Conditions

### Reservations & Deposit

- An \$800/person deposit is required at the time of reservation. The balance is due 90 days prior to departure.

### Cancellations & Refunds

- If you find it necessary to cancel your trip, notify us as soon as possible. All payments are nonrefundable and we regret that we cannot make exceptions for personal emergencies. For this reason, we strongly urge our participants to investigate trip cancellation insurance (see Insurance).

### Medical

- Under most circumstances, if you are of an adventurous spirit and in reasonably good health, you should have no problem enjoying this trip. People with medical conditions, including pregnancy, should have a physician’s approval before taking an adventure travel trip.

### Insurance

- Although every effort is made to insure a safe trip for all, **we require that you purchase medical evacuation insurance to participate in this expedition.** Call Travel Insurance Services at 800-937-1387 or visit their website at [www.travelinsure.com/what/imedhigh.htm?32635](http://www.travelinsure.com/what/imedhigh.htm?32635) for inexpensive options that cover this requirement. We also strongly recommend that you protect yourself, your belongings, and your vacation through the purchase of a short-term traveler’s policy. A trip cancellation policy covers your non-refundable payments in most cases, should you have to cancel your trip at the last minute due to illness or injury, as well as including the coverage required above. Trip participants should realize that in the event of illness or injury on a river trip, evacuation could be prolonged, difficult, and expensive. Personal belongings and cameras are carried entirely at the owner’s risk, and we accept no responsibility for lost, damaged, delayed, or stolen property.

### Liability Waiver

- Everyone is required to sign a standard liability release before the trip, acknowledging awareness that some risks are associated with the trip. Safety is of the utmost concern on our trips. However, due to the nature of the activities, a condition of your participation is that you will sign this form and return it to our office before the trip begins. Anyone who refuses to sign the form will not be allowed to participate, and consistent with Travel Outdoors cancellation policy, there will be no refund of the trip fees at that time.

### Responsibility – An Important Notice

- Travel Outdoors, Inc., Earth River and cooperating agencies act only in the capacity of agent for the participants in all matters relating to transportation and/or all other related travel services, and assume no responsibility however caused for injury, loss or damage to person or property in connection with any service, including but not limited to that resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, theft, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, and discrepancies or change in transit over which it has no control. Reasonable changes in itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well being of the participants, including cancellation due to water fluctuation, insufficient bookings and other factors. There is risk in whitewater rafting, particularly during high-water conditions. Rafts, dories and kayaks do capsize. You could be swept overboard. Your guide will make every attempt to assist, but you must be strong and agile enough to “self-help” and “float-it-out” without further endangering yourself or others. We reserve the right not to accept passengers weighing more than 260 pounds or with a waist/chest size exceeding 56 inches. We may decide, at any time, to exclude any person or group for any reason we feel is related to the safety of our trips. We are experienced at accommodating people with various disabilities. Please give us an opportunity to make you feel welcome. We need to discuss any special requirements ahead of time. On advancement of deposit the depositor agrees to be bound by the above recited terms and conditions. Prices subject to change without notice.

### Earth River Expeditions:

- Earth River Expeditions, a travel partner of Travel Outdoors, Inc., is the operator of this trip. Upon arrival, Earth River Expeditions staff will meet you and escort you throughout the program. These American and Chilean staff members are the very best and will strive to ensure your complete satisfaction.