

ko'kayak Whitewater Kayak Road Trip

Programa : Whitewater Kayak Road Trip.

Fecha : Noviembre 2018

After running for years whitewater rafting guide school for the week without walls program, students and teachers asked us to develop a whitewater kayak course.

Great idea, we have worked on it and set it up the better way : by paddling some of the most scenic rivers in Southern Chile.

Trip will begin in Pucon and finish in Puerto Varas, students will show up as rookies and finish as paddlers able to tackle class III rapids.

Every spring & summer paddlers from around the globe come to Chile as a premiere destination for whitewater, we are following their steps on this trip and will learn not only to paddle but also to interact with local communities and nature on its prettiest way through the water.

After the kayaking every evening will allow us to get to know local river people and share with them their motivations in protecting rivers but also their worries in keeping them clean. This is hard to find the balance between job and wealth creation and environment protection, but we truly believe we can maintain equilibrium between both sides of the same world.

Instructors as true passionate will share their love of rivers and river trips.

After a week of kayaking such rivers every student will be moved towards rivers and might start a paddling career.

We will also learn about the hydrology and conditions of the different river basins we will be on.



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November 3rd : Meeting up with the team.

Meeting in Pucon.

Instructors welcome the group and we get familiar with each others and our boats.

We will have hard shell and inflatable tandem river kayaks and will be able to try the 2 different kinds of boats along the week.

Lunch in Pucon.

In the afternoon we will spend time on basic skills on lake Villarica and work on our paddling technique.

We will start with forward paddling and by the end of the afternoon might be able to have everybody mastering the draw strokes and sweeps. One big part of today is also making the re-entry in the kayaks something fast and safe.

Dinner and overnight will be in cabins in town.



November 4th : First river.

After working on some theory and river reading skills we will spend our day on the beautiful Liucura river.

The river is perfect for a first day as it offers plenty of easy rapids with pools in between where we can assess each rapid before and after.

All of us will first practice some basic skills in river swimming and rescue. In a new environment it is very important to understand what to do and how to react.

This is what we will work on our first lap down the Liucura. This way everybody will be ready in case of a swim in the current.

On the paddling side we will work mostly on scouting rapids, finding our line and basic moves of the kayak like Eddy turns, bracing, ferrying across the current.

We will have 3 trips down the river, just to make sure we will sleep well.

After such a day our skills have already made a big improvement.

Dinner and overnight in Pucon.



Day achievements : getting to discover a new field with its specificities and learning to interact with it. Committing to each one situation and to the group. Understanding the importance of safety.

November 5th : Rio Enco

After an early breakfast we hit the road to get to Choshuenco and the lake Panguipulli.

This will be our base for the next 2 days.

After settling up we have a handful of beautiful rivers to paddle around.

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The first one will be a bigger volume river than the one we paddled yesterday, rapids will remain class II and we will work on more advanced eddy outs and wave surfing skills.

Rio Enco flows between lake Panguipulli and lake Rinihue and we also have time to take advantage of incredible views of Mocho Choshuenco volcano on our side.

After a late lunch we can relax a bit and work on some stretching after these 2 days of paddling.

The late afternoon is dedicated to learn about the didymo : a micro algae that spread really fast among rivers and that appeared in Chile a couple of years ago. It seems it was brought by fishermen coming from New Zealand and since then the plague has been evolving in many rivers of southern Chile.

We will learn about it and about how to treat our gear to limit the dispersion of it.

Dinner and overnight in camping in Choshuenco.

Day achievements : traveling as a group and learning to stay safe on the river as a group.

Working our way down rapids at the same time we learn new skills.

November 6th : Rio San Pedro.

A classic of Southern Chile, a very pretty river that flows out of Lake Rinihue.

Warm up drills on the shore of lake Rinihue and we have a taste of expedition as we load lunches in dry bags for a long day on the water.

First kilometers are very calm and offer us some time to be ready for the rapids. A super fun ride with huge waves. The San Pedro is a perfect way to step up to the plate after these days on easier rivers, we will take out today with great skills and might also have the chance to find some surf waves to play in our kayaks.

Take out after 22 kilometers of beautiful clear water.

After the paddling we drive to Entre Lagos on the shore of Lago Puyehue.

Overnight in cabin.

Day achievements : Immersion into nature as we spend the entire day out and away from "civilization" and have to manage our efforts.



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November 7th : Another river.

The morning is spent relaxing and trying to understand more the life on rivers, mostly talking about : River basins and hydrology, Social and economic interaction around rivers, conservation and restoration of the ecosystems endangered by human activity on river and the challenges this involves for the outdoor industry.

This helps us to understand more about the world of rivers and the task we can develop.

The afternoon will get us on another whitewater gem.

Few kilometers away from Entre Lagos lies the rio Pilmaiquen or rio Bueno, both beautiful class II/III runs with great wave trains. Depending on the water levels we decide on which river we put in.

One more run pushing our skills and getting better in big water.

We spend the afternoon on some glassy play waves and work on leading whitewater skills.



We make our way South and reach Ensenada on the shores of lake Llanquihue for the evening.

Day achievements : We will focus today on a bigger picture of the river world, the point is not to teach only how to steer a raft but to help the students understand the ecosystem. Not only telling what is bad and good but developing a critic point of view in front of projects that will impact river basins. Lots if not all of the rivers we are paddling on this trip have faced or are facing dam projects, students will be able to think about the river running vs the power generating.

November 8th : The mighty Petrohue river.

We reached the southernmost river of the trip and we will enjoy 2 laps today on this beauty. First run will have us on the water for 10 kilometers of continuous class III rapids and huge waves among crystal clear waters and snowcapped volcanoes...

After lunch we will run the same section but will start 3 kilometers upstream of the morning run and enjoy some pretty class III/IV moves.

An incredible day of whitewater.

The Petrohue flows out of Vicente Perez Rosales National Park, the first park founded in Chile in 1926.

In the evening we set up our evening dinner beside lake Llanquihue.

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Day achievements : Reaching goals after spending various days preparing for it. Paddling under pressure and transform this pressure in pure fun.

November 9th : One more lap.

We cannot resist another run down the entire section of the Petrohue and work on now advanced skills such as micro eddy turns and ferry surfs.

Each student will have a complete debriefing of the week with the group of instructors, debriefing will not be only on the technical side of the paddling but also on the group work and general attitude.

Lunch will be in Puerto Varas before we head to Puerto Montt airport.

End of our services.

Day achievements : After such a week the students will have developed respect for nature and will now have to think a way to work for this respect.



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Packing list per activity :

	What do we provide	What to bring 
Kayaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neopren wet suit - Neopren jackets - USCG Homologated pfds (2016 & 2017) and helmets - Comprehensive FA kit - Hard shell and inflatable single sit on top kayaks. - Paddles - Ropes, Carabiners, Pulleys etc... - Throw bags - Dry bags and cases - Communication (cell phones and radios) - Photos/Video tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Towel - Swimming suit - Thick Base layer (long johns, LS t shirts, cap) that will get wet - Wool, neoprene or fleece hat to go under the helmet - Neoprene socks - Good traction Sneakers that will get wet <p>If you cannot find neopren socks or hats (check out surf shop) do not hesitate to ask us and we can indicate you where to buy them.</p>
Meals / Lodging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hot and hearty Breakfast served at cabins or B&B. - Hot Lunches and dinners served at restaurants. - Overnights at cabins and B&Bs. 	

Any comment or question about what to pack; throw us a line at info@kokayak.cl



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Frequently asked questions

- Do I need experience on any activity?

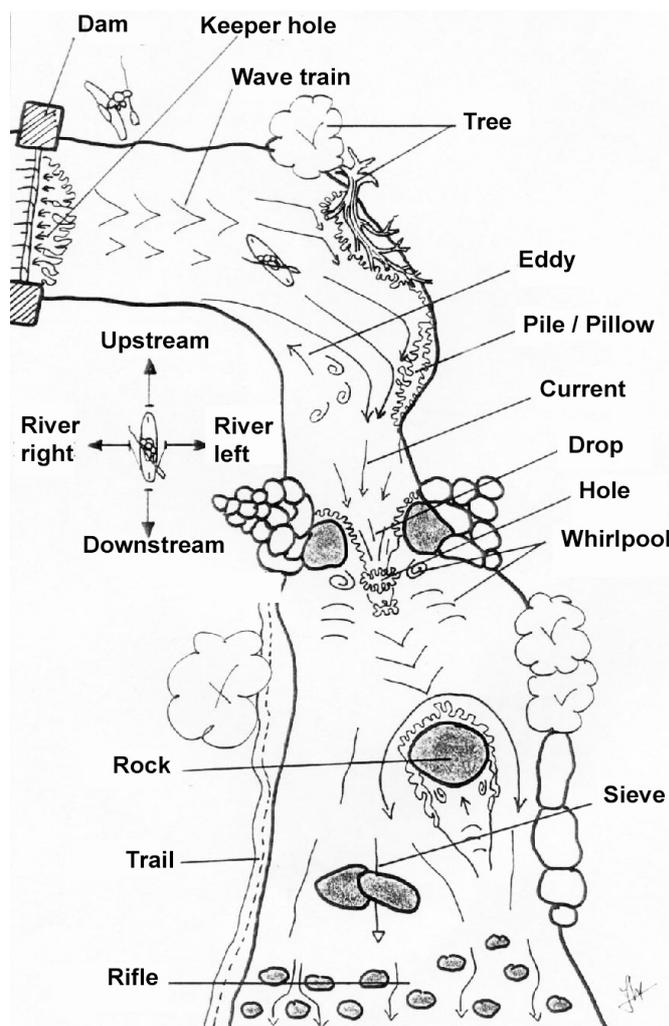
NO, you just need to know how to swim and we will begin every day with a complete safety briefing and a comprehensive practice during which we insist on your safety, skills learning and enjoyment.

- What about the instructors?

We are all dedicated outdoor people and have been working (in Chile and abroad) as raft guides and rafting instructors for at least 10 years (more for some of us:). We make sure we will share more than just techniques but the experience of outdoor leaders.

We are trained and certified in wilderness first aid and in swift water rescue techniques (www.iria.org). At the beginning of every season we realize a training workshop in safety and rescue in the stretches of water where we work.

Ko'KayaK has been operating trips and courses in these specialties and in this area since 1999.



Our priority after the group safety is making your trip with us the experience of a lifetime and to develop a long term relationship between us and our fellow paddlers.

Most of the Nido students (and teachers) come and pay a visit during summer with friends and family, this is the real achievement of this course for us :)

Ko'KayaK has been working as a Week Without Walls supplier since 2014.

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Head Instructors :

Alejandro Campos

Chilean born in 1990

Has been teaching kayaking, raft guiding and trip leading in Corea, Chile, Italy, USA, Thailand, Argentina, Norway, Peru etc...

Finished in 2nd position in the 2016/2017 Chilean Whitewater series

Currently works as kayak instructor on the Futaleufu river

Wilderness Advanced First Aid: January 2017

Swift water rescue technician Level 3 : January 2017

instructor Nido's week without wall rafting program in November 2016.

Richard Carrier:

Born in France, 1974.

Has been guiding multiday sea kayaking, ww kayaking and rafting trips in Italy, Chile, USA (Grand Canyon), France, Switzerland, and Austria. First time guided a whitewater kayak road trip in Europe in 1994.

Wilderness Advanced First Aid certified

Swift water rescue technician Level 3

Nido's week without walls lead instructor : Sea Kayak Pumalin November 2016 & 2017 - Rafting rio Petrohue program October 2014 & November 2015

