

## **SOUTH AMERICAN THREE PART PACKAGE**

This is a brief rundown on the three week South American package mentioned in our newsletter. Two of the three parts are relatively close together – the Andes and Fjord elements – while the Amazon/Peacock Bass portion is in Brazil. Although you could do them in any order (i.e. do the Amazon first followed by Andes/Fjords or visa versa) for the sake of our example, let's start in the Andes.

You would arrive in Santiago, Chile on a Thursday to begin your adventure. Assuming you took a red eye flight, we would R & R in Santiago on this Thursday and catch an early flight the next morning south to Puerto Montt – about a 2.5 hr flight. Here you would catch a local airline for the 30 minute flight to Chaitan, a small Chilean town on the coast of the fjords. You would be met at Chaitan for transport to the lodge. This is one of the most rural remaining areas in Patagonia...and the less pressured by US fisherman. Also, with a good chance to take large rainbows and browns. The lodge is a quality operation on the Palena River and has the best fishing options of any Patagonian lodge. During your seven night stay here, your guided fishing (English speaking guides) would include several different rivers and lagoons. You could also do an overnight float trip through the Andes on the Palena River and do another overnight at an outpost cabin on the Argentine border near the crest of the Andes. The lodge caters to only six fisherman per week and offers a high level of personal service and comfort. Price: \$3,850 for the seven night package.

After your stay here, the lodge would transport you about 2 hours south to your stay in the fjords. If you look at a map of Chile, you'll see hundreds of tiny islands just off the coast. This is a different environment than the Andes – a salt water environment with fresh water rivers and streams draining the larger islands. Good population of large trout as well as silver salmon – their size is influenced by the salt water environment as the fish move in and out of the salt water. Our stay here would be at a high end hotel and spa built in the fjords – can only be accessed by boat or small plane. They have a fly fishing program here limited to four fly fishers at a time. We would spend four nights here with two or three days of guided fishing – may take a day off of fishing to enjoy the spa and the ambiance of the area in which the spa is located. Price would vary depending on what we included, but it would be approximately the same as the lodge on a per day basis.

We'd wrap up our stay at the hotel/spa with a catamaran trip south through the fjords, overnight, and then fly out of Balmaceda back to Santiago. From Santiago, we'd make our way via air east across South America to the Amazon town of Manaus, Brazil, where we would meet the lodge plane for the 60 minute flight to the lodges private airport adjoining their property. Our seven night stay here would include fishing the clear waters of the AguaBoa River for peacock bass, arowana, pacu, and several other jungle species. The water is clear enough to allow sight casting to peacock bass to 20+ pounds. The general area is one of the Amazon's last remaining tracts of uncut and uninhabited rainforest. The lodge itself provides a high level of comfort and friendly service in air conditioned bungalows – 12 people max. Price is \$4,400 for your Sat to Sat stay, including the charter flight to and from Manaus. At the conclusion of your stay, the lodge would return you to Manaus where you could catch your flight to Miami.

Reservations: When piecing three parts together at lodges which tend to book up early with repeat clients like these, it's best to plan far in advance to allow for everything to fit together right. For instance, if you were planning an early '07 trip, now would not be too early to be making tentative plans. If you wanted to go in early '06, there are very few window of availability open and we would be fortunate to be able to piece everything together for all three stops.

Prime time in all three places is Jan, Feb into early March with Dec as a possibility.

What next? I do have an extensive slide presentation of the Andes and fjords options as I have spent several years exploring and fishing Patagonia and the fjords. I'm going to be in the Bush Street shop this Thursday through the early evening if you'd like to get together and view the slide tour?

Thanks.  
Don Meulrath

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