

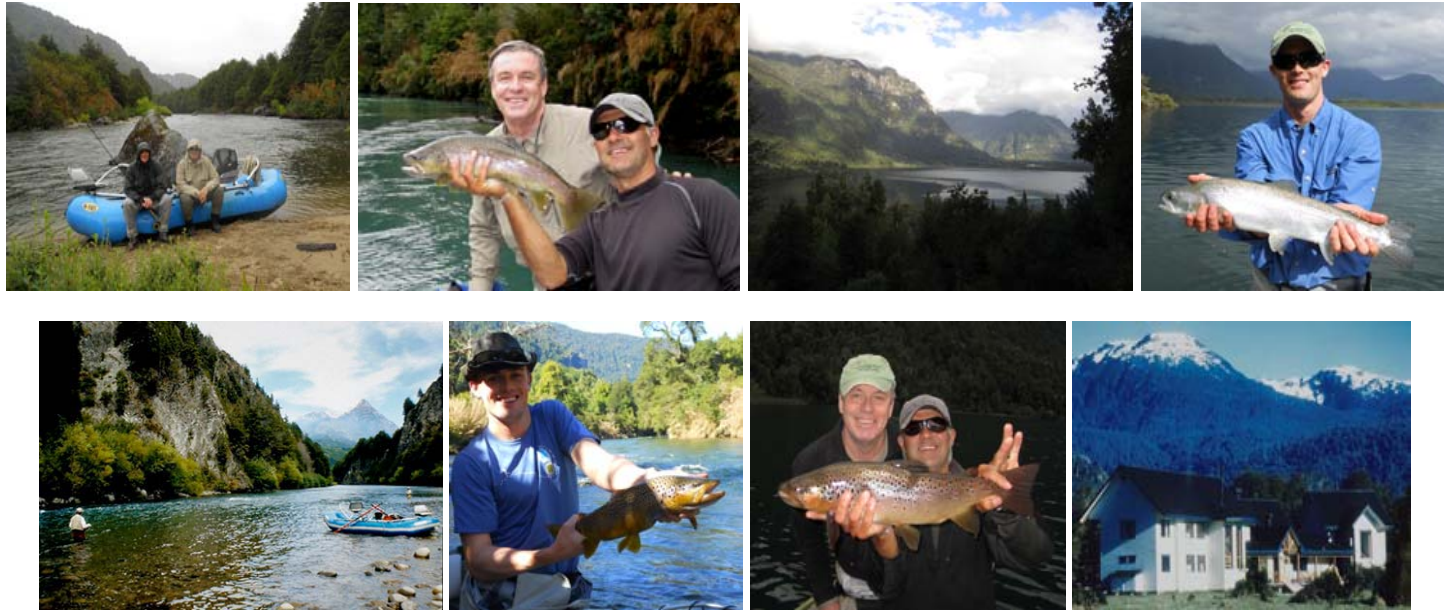


The crest of the spectacular Andes Mountains provides the border between Argentina and Chile. Patagonia is a loosely defined geographical area in the south-central part of both countries that is known more for its culture than its nationality. Patagonia also is famous for its rainbow and brown trout fisheries.

Two weeks provides enough time to fish both sides of the Andes' crest, providing an adventure that maximizes the airfare and flight time involved in getting there from the USA. This was the path taken by Scott and Bill Dinsmore for a wonderful father-son adventure (that's son, Scott, at left – the older guy is Bill). They provided the terrific collection of photos that enabled the production of this photo essay of their trip.

An itinerary can begin either in Argentina with the exit point in Chile – or it can be done the other way around. Scott and Bill used Santiago, Chile as their entry city from the USA and departed a few weeks later from Buenos Aires, Argentina. They began with a week's stay at what we believe to be Chile's finest fly fishing lodge, renowned both for the fishing options provided and quality of its overall operation.

(top left: Scott and Bill are dressed for some Andes rain as part of their overnight float trip on the Rio Palena. Browns, rainbows, beautiful mountain scenery, and a comfortable lodge were all part of the Chilean adventure.)



This still isolated area of Chile has been compared to rural Europe a hundred years ago. The last time we were in this region of Chile, we saw farmers picking up their cut hay with an ox-drawn cart and there were no paved roads. "Improved gravel" (lower left) still provides the vehicle paths until you cross over the border into Argentina and begin to find pavement on your way to Esquel.

When you enter into Argentina, the geography changes notably and while you can still see the Andes to the west, the terrain is much flatter. The Argentine corridor on the eastern side of the Andes from Esquel through Bariloche to San Martin, a drive of approximately ten hours, has many renowned fly fishing waters. Not all of these waters match up to the reputation they gained many years ago as fishing pressure has impacted some.



Scott and Bill, with drivers and vehicles supplied, made the trek from their Chilean lodge to Bariloche in about seven hours and dined and overnighted there. The following day, they finished their travels to San Martin, about four more hours of drive time. The lodge selected near San Martin was Tipiliuke, a highly recommended estancia with the Chimehuin River running through the property. The Chimehuin on the property provides a walk 'n wade experience with good dry fly activity highlighted by a late evening hatch. The photos below reflect that the guides are on the water late.



Comments from father Bill on the trip:

“Both lodges were outstanding. Will definitely return to the Chilean Lodge because of multiple venues and high adventure in the rivers. Tipiliuke was also first class and we caught nice fish. In addition to returning to Chile on our next trip, we may decide to try Argentina down near Esquel or Bariloche on the Argentine side. Thanks.” Bill and Scott Dinsmore

