

Kellogg Patagonia Leadership Expedition

Overview

Patagonia. A frontier of *campos* (ranches) hidden in isolated mountain valleys, ragged icy peaks, brawling rivers and cathedral fjords. This is a land that demands exploration, and you will experience its dramatic peaks, valleys and mysterious wilderness.

NOLS Patagonia is located in the heart of Chilean Patagonia. From our main base, a working farm of several hundred acres in the small town of Coyhaique, we do all of the planning and legwork to make your expedition into the wilderness an educational experience that lasts a lifetime. Here you'll meet your instructors and get to know them and your fellow expedition members as you prepare for your course.

Hallmarks of a NOLS Patagonia course are exploration, remoteness and tough weather. Patagonia has high mountains that have never been climbed and unexplored valleys, often populated by *pobladores* (subsistence ranchers). The weather in this part of the world is often unpredictable, but we'll teach you how to deal with this as you hike and camp in the valleys, explore the mountains and stop to visit with the people you meet along the way.

Leadership development comes quickly in these amazing conditions where teamwork is a necessity, not a luxury. You'll return from Patagonia with greater leadership skills, the ability to motivate yourself and others, and with the knowledge to plan and carry out your own expeditions in the most remote corners of the world as well as the business world.

Purpose

This 7-day leadership expedition is designed to provide Kellogg School of Management students with leadership and outdoor skills in a remote wilderness setting. This expedition has it all—technical skills, incredible scenery, ample leadership opportunities, and a dose of Patagonian culture.

Leadership skills development through experiential learning will be the primary focus of this course. Curriculum will aim towards situational leadership skills applicable to school, business, and social lives as well as expeditionary settings.

There will be significant technical and environmental challenges as participants approach expedition goals. NOLS Instructors will play evolving roles as participants' knowledge, experience, and abilities increase during this self-contained expedition. The group will take on increasing levels of personal and team responsibility for the technical and interpersonal aspects of the course. NOLS Instructors will provide structured briefing, debriefing, feedback, technical expertise, risk management, evaluation, classes and participant leadership and followership opportunities.

By the end of this course, participants walk away with the ability to coordinate their own expeditions – in wilderness and business settings – as well as having an appreciation for this dramatic Patagonian wilderness.

Course Objectives

Students are exposed to theory and practice of outdoor leadership, teamwork and expedition behavior. At NOLS expedition behavior involves commitment to the group, a positive attitude and cooperation to achieve goals. Each course is unique due to variables such as route, group dynamics, fitness levels, and environmental conditions. Working with these variables, it is our intent to see each student accomplish the following outcomes:

Leadership and Teamwork--

- To understand and use situation-appropriate personal leadership styles, leadership skill principles, and leadership roles
- To build competence in wilderness skills such as camping, backpacking and navigation
- To increase self awareness through honest reflection and peer feedback
- To work effectively as a member of a team
- To appropriately communicate ideas and concerns on an individual and group level
- To respond to problems using decision-making and planning skills
- To display an awareness of group strengths and limitations
- To take responsibility for the health and safety of self and others

General Outdoor Skills--

- To build the skills necessary to live and travel comfortably in a remote environment
- To develop the ability to camp, cook, and dress for varied conditions with minimum impact
- To travel competently in a mountain environment through the use of navigation and hazard evaluation techniques

Leave No Trace--

- To learn and demonstrate sound minimum-impact living and travel skills throughout the course.

Mountain Travel

You'll move up remote mountain valleys, planning routes and choosing campsites. Early in the course, your instructors will hike with you, helping you with map reading and route finding, hazard evaluation and judgment. Then they will step back incrementally until you find yourself in charge. Some days, you'll be named "leader of the day" and be responsible for a small group of your fellow students. Depending on how your entire group is progressing, you may have a chance to climb to a higher altitude where you'll cross huge glaciers and work on such skills as knot tying, rope-handling and crevasse rescue scenarios.

The crest of the Patagonian Andes contains peaks of spectacular beauty and power. As you travel through this land, you will encounter thickly vegetated slopes, intricate river systems and wide green valleys. You'll find yourself bushwhacking, spending time with a local who hasn't seen visitors in months, fording icy rivers and baking bread. You may work hard to get a few days on a glacier. There may be no trails. Or you may use trails cut through the forest by resident sheep and cattle ranchers. The fact that people live in these remote places does nothing to take the "wild" out of "wilderness." Much of this land hasn't seen anyone with the inclination, tenacity and skill level needed to reach its higher slopes.

During this course, you will hike through one of the many remote and beautiful mountain ranges in southern Chile. These rugged ranges, when the clouds clear, will provide breathtaking vistas of sharp unclimbed spires and mountain massifs with hanging glaciers. In this classroom, you'll learn backcountry living and mountain travel skills. Leave No Trace camping and travel techniques will be emphasized. Although traveling on glaciers and technical mountaineering are goals, unforeseen circumstances preclude any guarantees.

Diversity is an important theme on this course. While you may hike in a flat, grassy valley one day, you'll likely sweat uphill with a heavy pack and have to melt snow for water the next. The opportunity to experience this land as few people have is a satisfying reward.

About NOLS Patagonia

In operation since 1992, NOLS Patagonia is 11 kilometers from Coyhaique, nestled between rolling hills and snow covered peaks on a 500-acre working farm. Here NOLS staff and students work to raise all-natural, organic cows and sheep.

NOLS Patagonia course areas range from 44° latitude to 48° latitude and are the farthest south of any NOLS location. From the Northern Icefield and Andes Mountains, to the world-renowned fishing rivers and Pacific fjords, Patagonia offers limitless opportunity to experience wilderness extremes. If you want the ultimate in remote, expeditionary travel, the tightly knit community of NOLS Patagonia is where you should begin your adventure in wilderness education.

Local Facts

Taragui, a tea used by Chilean gauchos is rationed for every course

NOLS Patagonia staff are chosen for their Spanish fluency

There are approximately 10 Chilean instructors working out of NOLS Patagonia

Weather and Other Challenges

The weather in Patagonia is a mixture of wind, rain, snow and sun. Be ready for just about any type of weather condition. For a country no more than 120 miles wide, the climates are many. On your course you could end up living camped on a windy glacier in whiteout conditions or cooking in a heavy downpour. But, at times, you might find yourself traveling in the hot sun longing for the next stream. The wind can howl, the snow can pile high, the rain can come in sheets-sometimes for days at a time. Expect rain and cold regardless of what other weather conditions you may encounter. One of the greatest rewards to living in the Patagonian weather is the opportunity to visit, travel and experience a magical place that few other people ever see. Your instructors will help you learn how to live comfortably in the challenging conditions you may encounter on your course. Discussion of the rough weather you'll experience is not meant to intimidate you, but you should understand the reality of living in the Patagonian backcountry.

"It may be said that it suits the majestic temple of savage and virgin nature to hide from the eyes of the profane its treasures of beauty behind a thick curtain of wind and storm-tossed clouds. At rare times, it shakes off the clouds and then it is as if a magic curtain parts and there appears, resplendent in the light, ice sphinxes and spires and pinnacles bordered by a fire lace of snow, and alters with precious stones beneath a cobalt sky." Agostini.

Another challenge of Patagonia courses is the exploratory nature and learning to live with the unknown of what you might find around the next corner. Though exciting at times, the unknown can also be frustrating. This provides a unique challenge to your NOLS Patagonia experience that can be difficult to describe. One NOLS Patagonia student described her experience by saying, *"The exploratory nature of this course was the best part when it worked and the hardest part when it didn't."*

Attitude

Being a guest in a foreign country poses some special considerations for us all. There are few things more annoying than guests who are oblivious to the fact that their viewpoint and way of

living may not be desirable or available to others. Politeness and the cultivation of a sincere interest in other cultures is the first step in surpassing regional and economic differences and is a much appreciated sign of respect.

The same kind of cultural sensitivity and awareness of how others live can be applied to getting along with your expedition members. We try to have at least one Latin American Instructor in each group. This adds a unique perspective to the course. Openness and a willingness to share are the two most important skills that you can bring to your group. You should come to your course with enthusiasm and a desire to learn. You need to be flexible and willing to do things in a style that may be different from your own. Be excited to face the unknown, to adapt to situations and schedules at a moment's notice, and to help others do the same. Finally, learning some basic Spanish will enhance your experience.

Risk Management

Carefully managing the risks of remote wilderness travel is a priority at NOLS. Our curriculum emphasizes the development of judgment and hazard awareness, as well as the skill and experience base necessary to manage wilderness hazards. Students are expected to take personal responsibility for following risk management guidelines that are presented to them. Failure to do so will result in your dismissal from the course.

During your semester you may often be up to seven days away from the nearest medical facility. Weather, terrain and distance can impede communication and transportation efforts. In the event of an injury or illness, there is no guarantee that you can be evacuated from the backcountry immediately.