

"I first went to Chile in 2000. Visiting from the UK for the first time I was greatly impressed by the landscape of Patagonia some 800 miles south

of the capital Santiago - the beautiful natural forest covered mountains, the crystal clear rivers of deep blue fed from the glaciers in the high Andes, the magnificent lakes and the peace of the country. Enjoying a well managed road system free of traffic, great seafood and a friendly people, Chile has little crime and has much to commend it as a fine destination for the sportfishermen and the outdoor adventurer alike. I have returned there every year since - twice sometimes, to meet up and be guided by my friend Francisco. Based in Puerto Varas, from where a different river or lake can be reached easily everyday to match the prevailing weather conditions, Francisco and his fellow guides get me into the fish every time I visit. Francisco can also arrange trips further south on the Yelcho River. For a truly outstanding fishing trip , this has to rate as one of the top trout fishing destinations in the world. The Yelcho Lake is surrounded by several glaciers and the number of visitors pretty limited by the scarcity of accommodation so the 'hit' rate is always high. A word of warning though, as the weather in the South of Chile can change rapidly so the experience of a guide who understands the surroundings and the waters is essential.

Francisco is an exceptional man - he cares deeply for his environment and is active in ensuring it is protected for future generations, he is not a clock watcher - a day on the water is a real day and can be as much as 12 hours.

He wants his customers to become friends and because of his knowledge, care and experience many of us return time and time again. His wife supports his efforts by providing a superb cold cuts lunch every day complemented by fine Chilean wines and enjoyed comfortably at some delightful water side stopoff."

Brian

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