Discovering Our Planet Together

Wild Patagonia Photo Expedition

Peaks, Lakes, Glaciers & Pumas: A Photography Immersion in Chile & Argentina

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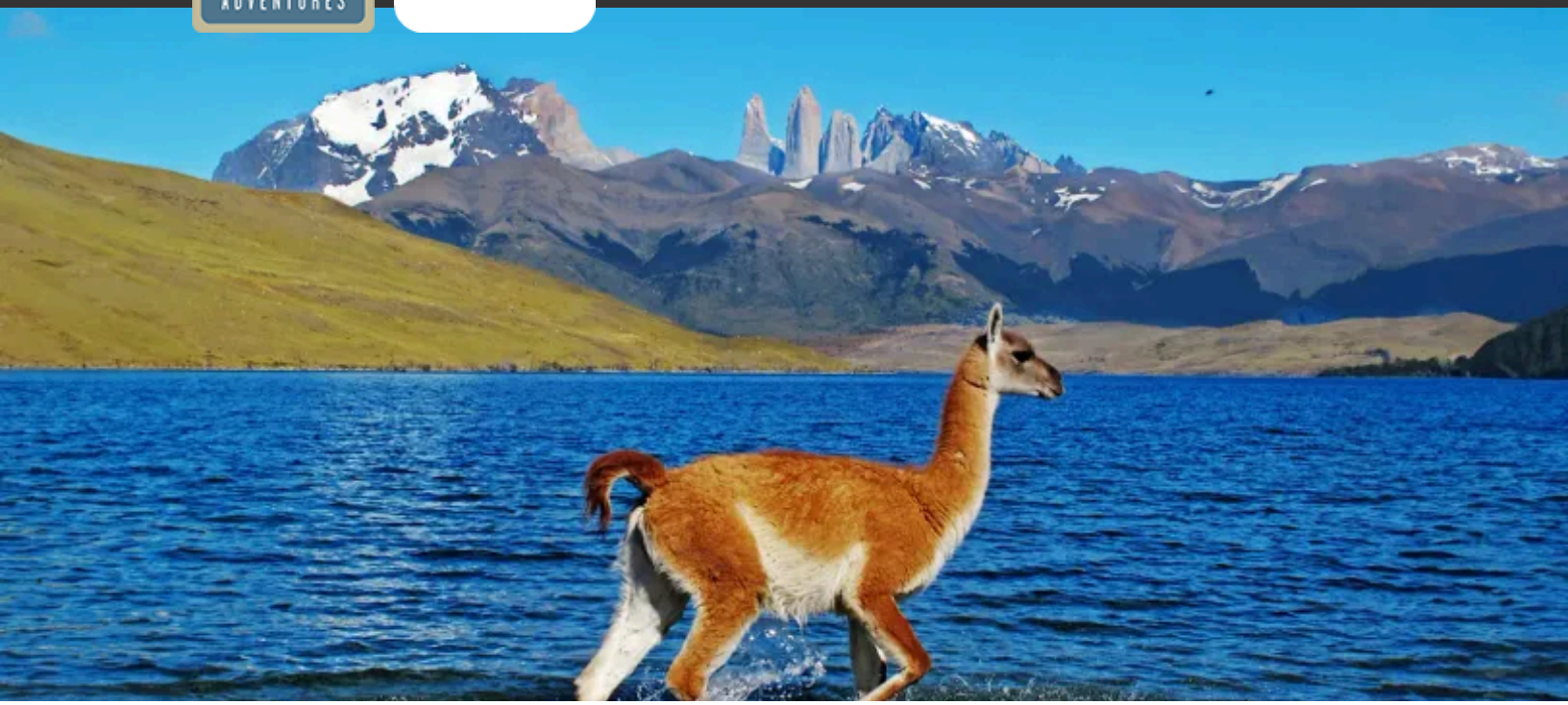


Trip Details:

Days
11 Days /
Mar–Apr

Price
From
$16795

Wild Patagonia Photo Expedition

Peaks, Lakes, Glaciers & Pumas: A Photography Immersion in Chile & Argentina

For the nature photographer, few places on Earth evoke the awe that Patagonia inspires. Bruce Chatwin, in his classic 1977 travelogue *In Patagonia,* wrote that here "nature is both a muse and a canvas," and we stand with our cameras before its ever-shifting tableau, seeking to arrest its raw beauty. On a cross-border adventure including both Chile and Argentina, photograph the granite spires of the Andes, crowned by the world's second-largest nonpolar ice field. Capture the dark vertical spikes of Fitz Roy and the imposing Torres del Paine as magical light turns their profiles pink and gold. Shoot glaciers that wind down in frozen rivers, calving blue icebergs into turquoise lakes. Watch guanacos graze on vast stretches of pampas while condors circle overhead, and look for pumas—sightings are on the rise. During private stays on working estancias, learn about conservation ventures that show protecting wildlife and raising livestock are mutually compatible goals. You won't find a more in-depth Patagonia photography adventure, led by outstanding naturalist-photographer guides.

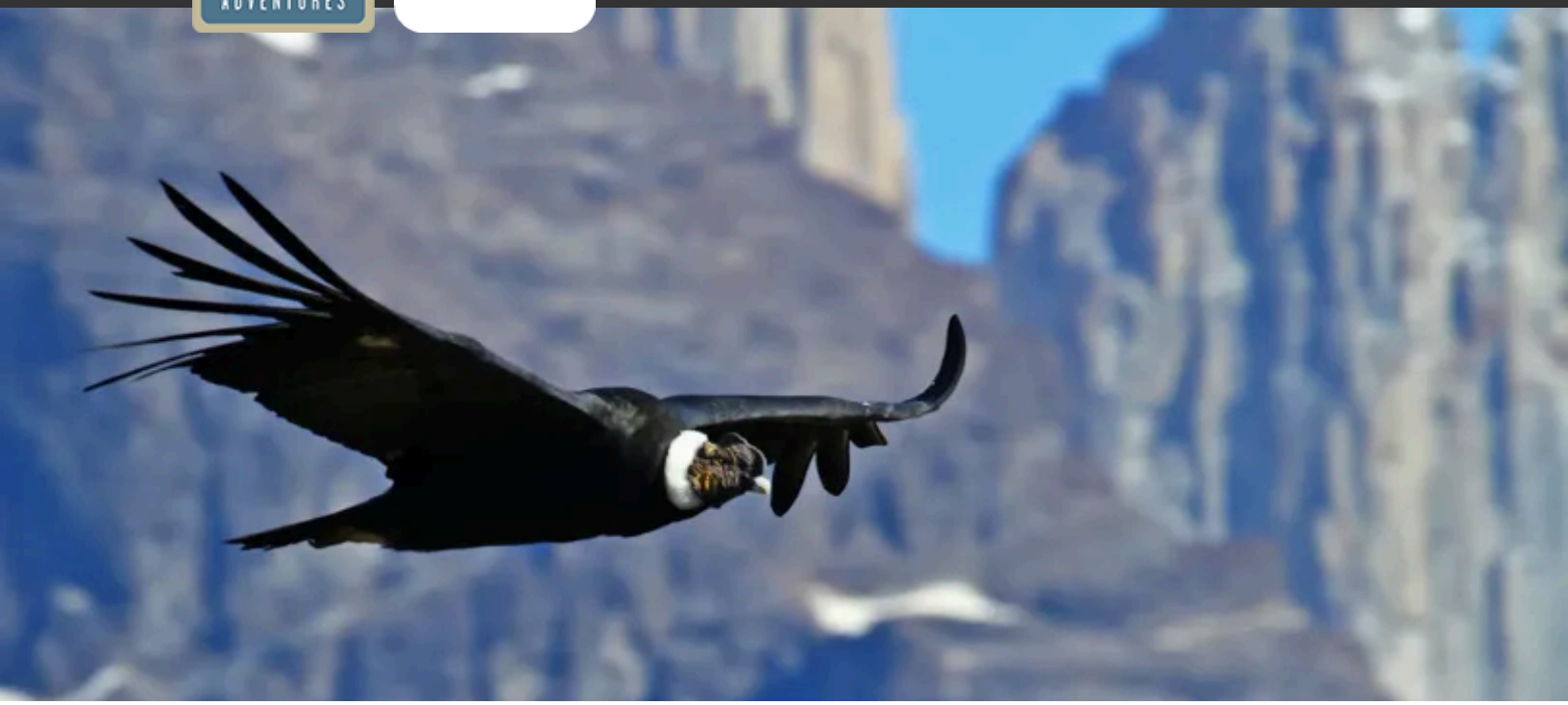
Trip Highlights

From our base at luxurious Patagonia Camp, seek shots of guanacos, huemul, condors and pumas against the famed backdrop of Torres del Paine's granite spires

On a private cruise to the massive face of Perito Moreno Glacier, towering 240 feet high, capture icebergs as they calve into the turquoise waters of Lago Argentino

Get an exclusive look at how modern-day Patagonia ranchers sustain their livelihoods while protecting habitats and wildlife—including rebounding pumas

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



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Wild Patagonia Photo Expedition Itineraries

Peaks, Lakes, Glaciers & Pumas: A Photography Immersion in Chile & Argentina

2026 Itinerary — 13 Days

This 13-day trip includes El Calafate, El Chalten, Estancia Cristina, Los Glaciares National Park, Estancia Cerro Guido and Torres del Paine National Park.

2027 Itinerary — 11 Days

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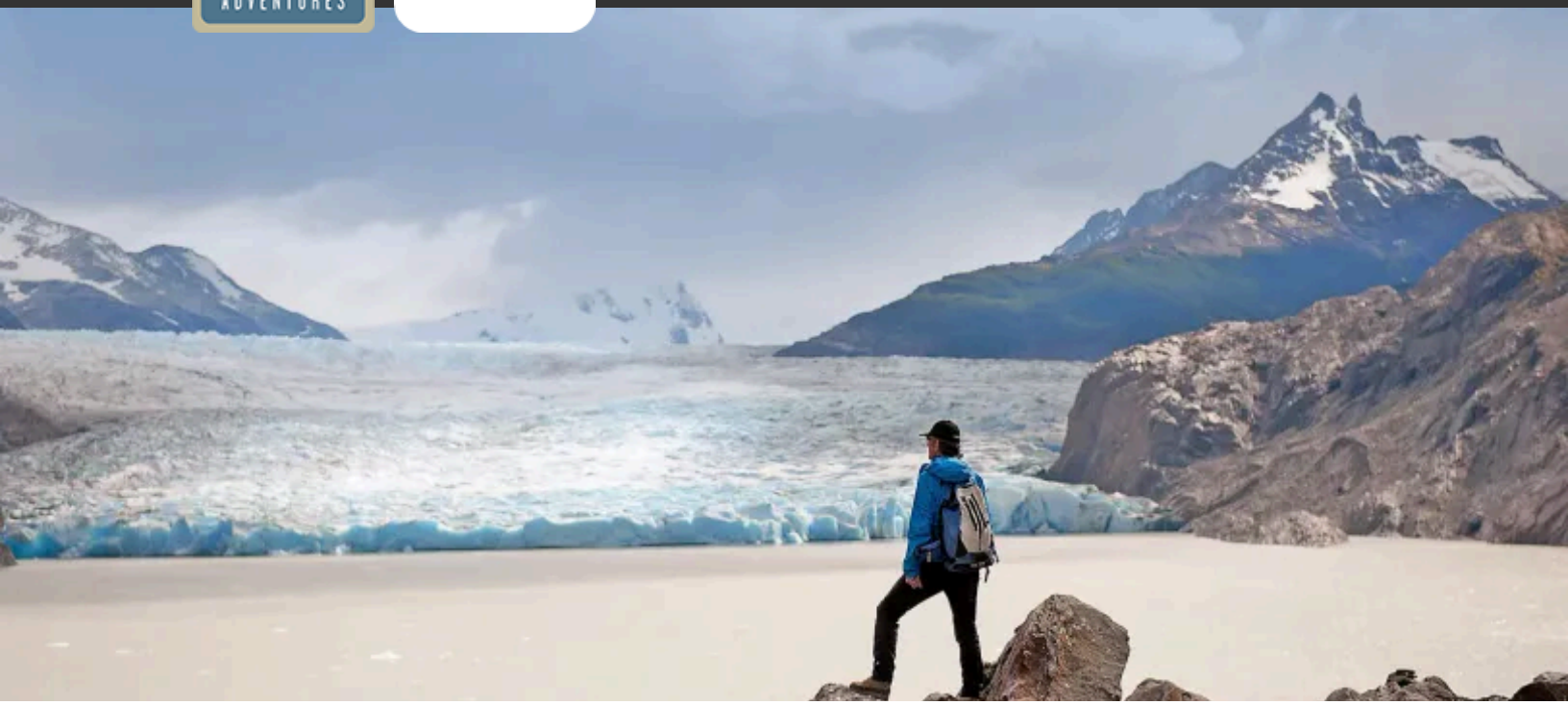

Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1
El Calafate, Argentina

Day 2
El Calafate—Laguna Nimez / El Chalten

Day 3
Hike to Piedras Blancas Glacier

Day 4
Hiking Near El Chalten / El Calafate

Day 5
Boat Cruise on Lago Argentino / Estancia Cristina

Day 6
Estancia Cristina / Upsala Glacier / El Calafate

Day 7
Los Glaciares National Park—Private Cruise to Perito Moreno Glacier

2026 Itinerary — 13 Days Itinerary

Peaks, Lakes, Glaciers & Pumas: A Photography Immersion in Chile & Argentina

Day 1: El Calafate, Argentina

Our Patagonia Photo Expedition begins in Argentina's adventure capital of El Calafate, where we meet our Expedition Leader and fellow photographers at a welcome dinner this evening. On the edge of the Southern Patagonia Ice Field, El Calafate was originally a hub for wool traders in the early 20th century. It became an important tourism base when Los Glaciares National Park was created in 1937 and remains so today.

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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 8
Estancia Cerro Guido—Conservation & Gaucho Traditions

Day 9
Cerro Guido Conservation Safari—Puma Restoration

Day 10
Torres del Paine National Park / Patagonia Camp

Days 11 & 12
Exploring Torres del Paine & Patagonia Camp

Day 13
Transfer to Puerto Natales or Punta Arenas / Depart

Day 2: El Calafate—Laguna Nimez / El Chalten

Our day begins with bird photography at Laguna Nimez Nature Reserve, which is a designated Important Bird Area (IBA). Some 80 species are found here along the shoreline, wetland and nesting reed beds, Patagonian residents and migrators alike. Then it's time to leave El Calafate for El Chalten, a scenic half-day drive. We stop en route for a short walk to Chorillo Del Salto before arriving at Patagonia Eco Domes or Chalten Camp to settle in and relax before dinner. Short trails lead into wild natural surroundings, and there are magnificent views of Mount Fitz Roy right from the camp.

Day 3: Hike to Piedras Blancas Glacier

An advantage of staying at Patagonia Eco Domes or Chalten Camp, in addition to the peaceful, isolated setting, is proximity to some of the most renowned views in Los Glaciares National Park. Today we make a full-day hike to a classic photo vantage point on Piedras Blancas Glacier—a long but relatively easy route, about 6 miles roundtrip. The trail takes us through native lenga (southern beech) forest, following the Rio Blanca, as we photograph tiny white orchids along the way, and birds such as Magellanic woodpeckers, thorn-tailed rayadito and white-throated treerunner. Once we reach the lookout, our reward is stunning: the jagged blue glacier, with its seracs and icefalls, descends through the cirque below the Fitz Roy massif, flanked by sharp, dark gray peaks. At the glacier's base is a turquoise meltwater lake, with icebergs occasionally floating on its surface. Return by late afternoon, with time to relax in camp before dinner.

Day 4: Hiking Near El Chalten / El Calafate

After breakfast, we start our drive back toward El Chalten, stopping en route for another dramatic hike. Options may include the viewpoint overlooking Cerro Torre, the finger-like needle that has daunted world-class alpinists for decades, or a walk to Laguna Capri for a different angle on Fitz Roy, which rises in sharp granite spires behind the lake. As always, we'll keep the pace and grade moderate, ensuring a comfortable approach to our destination. After our hike, it's time to travel back to El Calafate, leaving the Fitz Roy massif behind us as we head onto the sprawling Patagonian Steppe. We'll have dinner on arrival in El Calafate.

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Day 5: Boat Cruise on Lago Argentino / Estancia Cristina

Board a catamaran this morning for photography on Lago Argentino, the country's largest lake and the third largest in South America. Icebergs frequently litter its teal-blue surface, as the lake is fed by several glaciers that flow down from the 6,500-square-mile Southern Patagonian Ice Field, one of the most extensive non-polar glaciated areas in the world. Across the lake at the head of one of its fjord-like arms lies Estancia Cristina, where we disembark to spend the night. Surrounded by pristine nature and inaccessible by road, the setting offers a rare opportunity to photograph the Patagonia wilderness in a truly remote location.

Established as a sheep farm in 1914 (an estancia is a working ranch in Patagonia), Estancia Cristina is contained within the bounds of Los Glaciares National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Once we check in to the lodge, we head out with our Expedition Leader on a hike. Don't forget to look up—Andean condors, with their 10-foot wingspans, are a common sight in the skies overhead, and a striking photography subject. After lunch, explore further on foot or in the ranch's 4x4 vehicles that take us deeper into the Rio Caterina Valley. Solitude reigns on our private excursions, and we feel very small against the scale of this vast terrain. After an exciting day of photography, spend a peaceful night in your private suite in one of the ranch's five casas, with broad valley and mountain views showcased through panoramic bay windows.

Day 6: Estancia Cristina / Upsala Glacier / El Calafate

A stunning photo subject awaits this morning as we drive in 4x4 vehicles to a dramatic lookout over the massive expanse of Upsala Glacier. Thirty-seven miles long and six miles wide, it is the largest glacier on the South American continent. This is the only land-based viewpoint over this enormous river of ice that terminates in Lago Argentino, and with our close access from Estancia Cristina, we are able to capture photos before other visitors arrive. As with most of the world's glaciers, Upsala has been in rapid retreat, and the tremendous amount of ice it is constantly calving makes it difficult to view its face up close from the water. We see it from the classic overlook, however, with a crush of blue icebergs along its edge. After one more private walking tour from the estancia, followed by lunch, we board the catamaran back to El Calafate to spend two more nights.

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Day 7: Los Glaciares National Park—Private Cruise to Perito Moreno Glacier

A private boat cruise on Lago Argentino takes us into another sector of Los Glaciares National Park where we come face to face with one of Patagonia's premier highlights: Perito Moreno Glacier. We disembark for a short hike along a secluded shoreline to arrive at a classic photo vantage point overlooking the glacier. The most famous of the more than 50 outlet glaciers spilling from the Southern Patagonia Ice Field, Perito Moreno is one of very few advancing glaciers on the planet. Almost 200 feet high, it winds down from the perpetual snowfields of the Andes to its terminus in the huge lake, calving icebergs into the turquoise water. Back aboard the boat, we get incredible close-ups of the glacier's imposing blue face, more than three miles across. Stepping ashore again, follow a maze of boardwalks offering varied views on the glacier and icebergs drifting on the lake.

Day 8: Estancia Cerro Guido—Conservation & Gaucho Traditions

Depart El Calafate this morning and cross the border into Chile, driving south on a scenic route to Estancia Cerro Guido, where we spend two nights. On arrival, we check in to the lodge and gather for an orientation to this impressive conservation project. Established by European pioneers at the end of the 19th century, this is the largest cattle ranch in the history of Chilean Patagonia, still a working livestock and agricultural enterprise on nearly a quarter-million acres. Dedicated to conservation leadership, the ranch has sought to achieve coexistence between livestock and wildlife, demonstrating that both can flourish in harmony. Improving the condition of its grasslands has attracted native fauna, including grazing guanacos. Given its location on a biological corridor with Torres del Paine National Park, wildlife on its vast expanse is abundant, and we frequently spot gray fox, Andean condor and Darwin's rhea, a large flightless bird that is a relative of the ostrich and stands three feet tall. We also hope to see puma, which are making a comeback.

Cattle and sheep are looked after by gauchos, the traditional Patagonia cowboys who roam the pastures on horseback, and we learn about their history and culture on a tour of the ranch today, which also showcases its conservation achievements. Visit the stable, learn how sheep dogs work the herds, and see the organic gardens where produce is grown to supply the kitchen that provides our fresh farm-to-table meals. Tuck in at night into luxuriously appointed accommodations in restored 1920s cottages built by original English pioneers.

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Day 9: Cerro Guido Conservation Safari—Puma Restoration

Today holds exciting adventures as we learn in-depth about Cerro Guido's impressive conservation values, goals and achievements. On an all-day safari, we participate in Cerro Guido's puma research project, launched in 2019. Rise early this morning to head into the field with professional puma researchers dedicated full-time to studying pumas that live on the ranch. "Puma" is the name the Incas gave to this agile predator, which is also known as a cougar or mountain lion. Through observation with binoculars, review of camera traps, presentation of video material and informative talks, the research team shares their daily work with us, noting achievements and explaining challenges. We'll learn a great deal about Patagonia's most magnificent feline predator as well as the varied wildlife of the region and how to facilitate coexistence between livestock and these native dwellers in the wild. Along the way, we keep a close watch for elusive pumas, with cameras at the ready for sightings, which are increasingly frequent.

Day 10: Torres del Paine National Park / Patagonia Camp

Today we cross the steppe to reach Chile's Torres Del Paine National Park, stopping at overlooks to capture photos of the staggering views. A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the park is home to a host of wildlife including puma, guanaco, fox, huemul (South Andean deer) and armadillo. An impressive array of birdlife is here, too: look for eagles, hawks, rheas, buzzards, owls, flamingos and South American condors back from the brink of extinction. Dominating the horizon are the famous Torres del Paine—the Towers of Paine—dark igneous rock spires millions of years old.

Notice how the ecosystem changes as our journey continues and we move from sprawling tawny steppe into rolling mountain foothills covered in native beech forest. Our destination is Patagonia Camp, a "rustic luxury" outpost on Lago el Toro surrounded by 84,000 acres of private land adjacent to the national park. This unique ecolodge is comprised of 20 spacious yurts tucked within the forest, with views from private decks. Comfortably spaced apart for seclusion, the deluxe yurts feature the appointments of a fine hotel. Common amenities include a large shared lounge yurt, a dining room built of warm native wood with woven wool textiles, and expansive wooden terraces overlooking the lake and mountains beyond. This afternoon holds our first chance for photography in the wild nature surrounding us. We've hired a puma tracker to enter the park before us, scouting the terrain for signs of these elusive cats, whose numbers are on the rise here. The tracker will be in radio contact with our Expedition Leader, so we can be apprised right away if a sighting may await.

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Days 11 & 12: Exploring Torres del Paine & Patagonia Camp

Our stay at Patagonia Camp offers a host of options and flexibility to tailor excursions around personal interests and Patagonia's notorious wind-and-weather whims. We'll have two Sprinter vans for our group's private use, plus two local guides who will join our Expedition Leader, allowing us to split up according to varied activity preferences.

A range of walks and hikes offer opportunities to observe the Paine massif from different angles, with roaming guanacos, Andean condors and native flora in the foreground. Classic Magellanic subarctic forest species are on display here—lenga, ñire and coihue, a tall evergreen that can reach 140 feet. We may spy the Magellanic woodpecker and, if we're lucky, the huemul, a rare Chilean deer that is a national symbol found on the coat of arms on Chile's flag. Guests who want to tackle more challenging hikes to famous national park destinations such as the French Valley, Base of the Towers or Mirador Condor will have an opportunity to do so. Mellower hike options with rewarding views include Mirador Los Cuernos, a vista overlooking the famous outcrop of dark granite horn-like spires. There are also easy outings that depart directly from camp, including Los Azules lookout and Toro's Waterfall. Those who prefer more independence can also choose self-guided walks from camp.

Lakes and waterfalls are highlights of Torres del Paine, with brilliant blue Lake Pehoe reflecting the serrated peaks like a mirror. We follow its shoreline to Salto Grande Falls, which thunders down from Lake Nordenskjold above. In the northern part of the park, the view from Laguna Azul offers a different angle on the imposing towers. We may also stop at Cascada del Rio Paine to admire this series of terraced waterfalls. As we explore, keep an eye out for wildlife. It's possible to spot pumas here, especially along the Sendero de La Fauna—the animals' trail—so named for the many guanacos that frequent the route. It winds through a favorite puma hunting ground where we may see remains of camelids that the tawny cats have preyed upon. High rock formations flank the path, providing dwellings and lookouts for these stealthy felines. While pumas are notoriously elusive, we have seen them increased regularity in recent seasons.

Day 13: Transfer to Puerto Natales or Punta Arenas / Depart

Depart Patagonia Camp this morning with a transfer to your flight departure point: either Puerto Natales, about a 75-minute drive, or Punta Arenas, the main airport in the southern part of Chilean Patagonia, which is a four-hour drive south. Guests leaving from Puerto Natales can schedule their departure for any time; guests departing from Punta Arenas should schedule flights no earlier than 1:30 pm.

Please Note: *This itinerary is meant as a guideline and can change due to the unpredictable nature of the wind and weather in Patagonia. On some occasions, conditions may require us to deviate from our intended itinerary, in which case we will provide the best available alternative. And we'll make a great adventure of it!*

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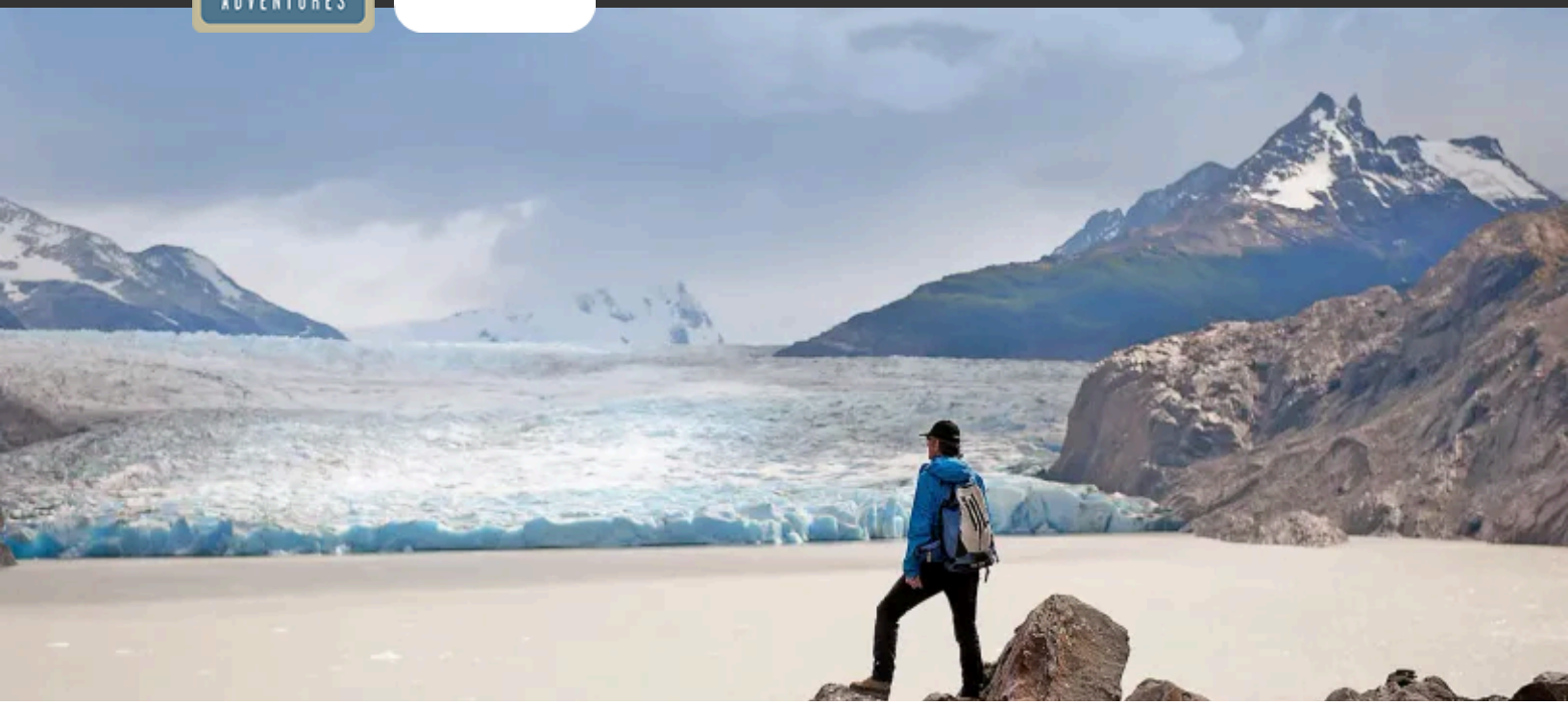

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2027 Itinerary — 11 Days Itinerary

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Accommodation Details:

- Patagonia Camp
- Patagonia Eco Domes
- Estancia Cerro Guido
- Estancia Cristina
- Hotel Kosten Aike
- Mirador del Lago
- Chalten Camp

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/south-america/patagonia-photo-expedition/accommodations

Wild Patagonia Photo Expedition Accommodations

Peaks, Lakes, Glaciers & Pumas: A Photography Immersion in Chile & Argentina

Patagonia Camp

Set within native beech forest overlooking Lago el Toro on the edge of Torres del Paine National Park, this renowned luxury ecolodge features 20 deluxe yurts with private balconies and striking views.

Patagonia Eco Domes

With fantastic views of Mount Fitz Roy and immediate access to some of the best hiking trails in the park, Patagonia Eco Domes is an unique off-the-grid accommodation, with nine geodesic lodging domes and two larger ones for community gathering.

Estancia Cerro Guido

On a historic working sheep ranch dedicated to conservation and puma restoration, Cerro Guido guests enjoy luxury lodgings in restored heritage buildings, in view of Paine massif.

Estancia Cristina

Originally a sheep farm established in 1914, Estancia Cristina offers some of Patagonia's most remote and exclusive lodging, surrounded by peaks and glacial rivers and accessible only by boat.

Hotel Kosten Aike

Located in the center of lively El Calafate, this hotel reflects the cultural heritage of the region with works by Argentine artists incorporating indigenous Tehuelche designs into every detail.

Mirador del Lago

Just outside the busy center of El Calafate with views of Lago Argentino across the road, this hotel's classic Patagonia design incorporates stone and heavy timbers with rich carpets and textiles.

Chalten Camp

Located less than two miles from El Chalten, Chalten Camp offers a luxurious "camping" experience in well-appointed domes with unimpeded views of Cerro Fitz Roy.

You Won't Find a Better Patagonia Photo Experience

If you're looking for a trip that's both comprehensive and intimate, with expert photography guidance and natural history interpretation...*this is it!* Photograph both sides of the southernmost Andes on our itinerary that covers both Chile and Argentina. And while we don't make you undergo endurance treks or stay in wind-whipped tents, this adventurous foray will get you deep into some of the most striking wild country on Earth, with access for phenomenal photo opportunities.

1

A Personalized, Small-Group Context

We know a small group is essential for the best nature photography opportunities—that's why we limit ours to just 10 guests. Sometimes, when options exist to choose between different ability levels for hikes, for instance, your group will be even smaller. In every instance, you can count on plenty of personal attention and photography coaching from our Expedition Leader.

2

Your Naturalist Guide is a Top Nature Photographer

Our Photo Expedition Leaders are some of South America's top naturalist guides—and they have years of photography expertise and the ability to impart it—meaning better images for you. Our Expedition Leaders also receive exclusive resources from WWF scientists. **Read our Expedition Leader bios** and traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

3

Some of the Best Glacier Photography on Earth

The Southern Patagonian Ice Field is one of the largest on the planet, and we capitalize on glacier photo opportunities. We get you up close, from varied vantage points including hiking trails and boat-based viewing on Lago Argentino. A private cruise to the face of Perito Moreno Glacier lets you capture images of ice calving from its imposing face, more than 3 miles across.

4

Choose from Varied Hikes to Suit Your Ability

Although Patagonia is known for challenging hiking, we've finessed our adventure to offer a variety of activity levels. Because our small group travels with an Expedition Leader *plus* an assistant guide, our guest-to-guide ratio is just 5 to 1, allowing us wherever possible to offer choices so you can see and photograph what you'd like to, in the manner that's most comfortable.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

5

Odds for Puma Photography Are on the Rise!

While pumas—also known as cougars or mountain lions in North America—are elusive, sightings are definitely increasing in recent years, and we put a special focus on finding them. In fact, we've included three days in Torres del Paine National Park to up your odds. This is likely not the case on other Patagonia trips that aren't as wildlife-oriented as ours is.

6

Unique Lodgings Include Renowned Patagonia Camp

Nat Hab accommodations are often as memorable as the nature destinations we explore. In Chile, we stay at Patagonia Camp, in luxuriously appointed private yurts tucked among the trees on a huge private conservation reserve. You'll feel at one with nature while enjoying exceptional comfort. We also stay on two private estancias (ranches) devoted to conservation ventures that are helping to restore wildlife to the Patagonian landscape.

7

Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Patagonia Photo Expedition

Natural Habitat Adventures offers an exclusive guarantee that clearly states that we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.

8

Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

9

Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our small-group nature adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat Adventures its worldwide travel partner—a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!

Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From $16795

Group Size:
Limited to 10 Travelers

Wild Patagonia Photo Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

Peaks, Lakes, Glaciers & Pumas: A Photography Immersion in Chile & Argentina

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Mar 29, 2026	Apr 10, 2026	$18795 USD Fall Foliage Season
Apr 1, 2026	Apr 13, 2026	$18795 USD Fall Foliage Season

2027 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Mar 26, 2027	Apr 5, 2027	$16795 USD
Mar 29, 2027	Apr 8, 2027	$16795 USD
Apr 1, 2027	Apr 11, 2027	$16795 USD

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Pricing

See https://nathab.com/south-america/patagonia-photo-expedition/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and local staff, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, private boat tour to see the Perito Moreno Glacier, regional wines with dinner, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Important Information About This Trip

This realm of sheer granite mountains and glaciers is among the most spectacular natural places on the planet. Most visitors to Patagonia trek and camp to access the scenic splendors of the region. Our custom-designed trip, however, utilizes atmospheric, well-appointed small hotels and lodges that place us among some of Patagonia's most dramatic settings in genuine comfort. In order to experience the region most fully, please be prepared for some long drives and moderate hikes. Some challenging (though optional) hikes are also recommended in order to fully enjoy some of the most scenic areas.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Mandatory Insurance

As of July 1, 2025 all travelers entering Argentina must carry an international medical insurance policy to be allowed entry. This measure applies at all airports, border crossings and ports.

The insurance policy must be valid for your entire stay in Argentina and must include coverage for:

- Medical and hospital care
- Accidents or illnesses
- 24/7 emergency assistance
- COVID-19 treatment and related services
- Medical evacuation or repatriation if necessary

Nat Hab's comprehensive Travel Protection Plan includes medical evacuation coverage and meets the above requirements for Argentina. Our insurance protects your investment in the event of cancellations, interruptions and illness that can cause you to miss out on all or part of your highly anticipated adventure. Many plans are available for purchase until 15 days prior to travel.

Please travel with a copy (printed or digital) of your Confirmation of Benefits (COB) document to present as verification.

If you purchase through a third party, please provide our office with company name, policy number and contact phone number prior to traveling. Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins and ends in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Because this is a long international journey, **we recommend that you arrive at least one night prior to Day 1** to rest from your travels and begin the trip refreshed. For guests who come in early, recommended hotels will be included in your pre-departure materials.

If you plan to arrive on Day 1, you must arrive in Sao Paulo by 4 pm in order to attend a welcome orientation and dinner beginning at 6 pm.

You may depart Sao Paulo at any time on Day 11.

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.

Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together
Natural Habitat Adventures • PO Box 3065 · Boulder, CO USA 80307
USA & Canada: 800-543-8917• International: 303-449-3711

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than $6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus $175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.