PATAGONIA

Southern Patagonia · Chile and Argentina · 2026

Torres del Paine and the great Patagonian ice fields of the far south.

INTRODUCTION

What is Patagonia?

Patagonia is the southernmost tip of South America, shared by Chile and Argentina. It is not an official political division but a broad historical-geographic region that stretches, roughly, from the Biobío/Neuquén river down to Tierra del Fuego, split north to south by the Andes mountain range.

Chilean Patagonia

NORTH TO SOUTH

- Los Ríos Region (sometimes included as "Northern Patagonia")
- Los Lagos Region
- Aysén Region
- Magallanes and Chilean Antarctica Region

Argentine Patagonia

NORTH TO SOUTH

- Neuquén Province
- Río Negro Province
- Chubut Province
- Santa Cruz Province
- Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica and South Atlantic Islands Province

INTRODUCTION

Patagonia Overview

Patagonia is, above all, a multi-activity destination with a primary focus on nature: mountains, glaciers, steppe, fjords and unique biodiversity make it one of the last great wild territories on the planet. It combines demanding adventure with mature tourism infrastructure, allowing for both active and contemplative itineraries.



Trekking

Day hikes and multi-day circuits through iconic national parks.



Glaciers and ice

Boat tours, kayaking and hiking on ancient ice.



Wildlife

Guanacos, condors, pumas, huemul deer, whales and penguins.



Boating

Fjords, channels and turquoise glacial lakes.



Patagonian culture

Estancias, gaucho tradition and pioneer settlement history.

SCOPE

The focus of this proposal

Within the vast expanse of Patagonia, this presentation focuses exclusively on Southern Patagonia — the region's two defining frontiers, the heartland of Patagonian nature tourism.

CHILE

Magallanes

The Magallanes and Chilean Antarctica Region covers the southernmost tip of Chile: Patagonian steppe, the Torres del Paine massif, fjords and the traditional life of sheep-farming estancias. Punta Arenas and Puerto Natales are the gateways, with good air and land connectivity.

- Torres del Paine National Park
- Puerto Natales
- Punta Arenas
- Patagonian estancias and penguin colonies

ARGENTINA

Los Glaciares

The Los Glaciares area, in Santa Cruz province, is home to the great Patagonian ice fields: the Perito Moreno Glacier, Lago Argentino and the steppe surrounding them. El Calafate is the gateway, with good air connectivity and a growing tourism infrastructure.

- Los Glaciares National Park (UNESCO)
- Perito Moreno Glacier
- El Calafate
- Lago Argentino

Seasons & Climate

Season	Months	Climate / Temperatures	Operating notes
Summer (high)	Dec – Feb	Long days (16–17h light). Warm but with strong, constant wind.	Full range of activities and accommodation operating; book well ahead.
Autumn	Mar – Apr	Milder temperatures, calmer wind, autumn colors.	Good balance of calm weather and fewer crowds; services gradually wind down toward late April.
Winter	May – Aug	Cold, short days.	Many rural/trekking services closed or limited; some circuits require an authorized guide. Ideal for puma spotting.
Spring	Sep – Nov	Variable weather, blooms, return of wildlife.	Fewer tourists; less predictable weather than summer.

Climate by zone: Andes and fjords (humid, rain year-round) · Patagonian steppe (dry, very windy) · Tierra del Fuego (sub-Antarctic, abrupt changes)



SOUTHERN PATAGONIA — CHILE

Magallanes Region

Chile's southernmost region, Magallanes and the Chilean Antarctica, stretches across steppe, fjords and mountains at the end of the world. It is home to Torres del Paine National Park, the gateway cities of Puerto Natales and Punta Arenas, and a rich history of Patagonian estancias and early exploration.

SOUTHERN PATAGONIA — CHILE

Puerto Natales

Puerto Natales is the gateway to Torres del Paine National Park, about two hours away by road, and the logistics hub of Chilean Patagonia — with the region's widest range of hotels, restaurants and tour operators. It isn't only a stopover for trekkers: travelers who prefer not to commit to a multi-day trek, like the W or O circuits, can base themselves in a hotel in town and explore the park and its surroundings through a series of day trips instead.



All day trips depart from and return to Puerto Natales — no multi-day trekking commitment required.

PATAGONIAN ESTANCIAS

Day visit to sheep-farming estancias in the countryside around Puerto Natales

BALMACEDA & SERRANO GLACIERS

Boat navigation through the fjords to these two glaciers

CERRO DOROTEA

Half-day trek up this lookout hill above Puerto Natales

BASE TORRES VIEWPOINT

Full-day trek inside the park to the iconic Base Torres lookout

PANORAMIC NATIONAL PARK TOUR

Full-day scenic tour covering the National park's main viewpoints

SOUTHERN PATAGONIA — CHILE

Punta Arenas

Punta Arenas is the regional capital of Magallanes and the main international gateway to Chilean Patagonia, with direct flights from Santiago and connections to Ushuaia. Beyond its role as an air hub, the city itself offers a handful of easy day experiences for travelers with time before or after their trip to Torres del Paine.



A natural stop to combine with Puerto Natales and Torres del Paine, at the start or end of the trip.

MAGELLANIC PENGUINS

Boat or land excursions to the Isla Magdalena or Seno Otway penguin colonies

RESERVA NACIONAL MAGALLANES

Short forest treks and viewpoints over the Strait of Magellan, minutes from downtown

CITY & STRAIT OF MAGELLAN

Walking tour of the historic center, Plaza de Armas and the waterfront

PATAGONIAN MUSEUMS

Regional history and natural history museums in the city center

FEATURED SECTION

Torres del Paine

Torres del Paine is Chile's most iconic national park and one of the most renowned trekking destinations in the world. Its name — "Blue Towers" in the Tehuelche language — describes the granite massif that dominates the landscape, surrounded by glaciers, turquoise lakes and Patagonian steppe. Designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, it combines landscapes of monumental scale with a network of trails, refugios and lodging ranging from basic campsites to luxury lodges.



LOCATION

Magallanes Region, ~112 km from Puerto Natales

RECOGNITION

UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

ICONIC CIRCUITS

W Trek (~5 days) and O Circuit (~9–11 days)

SIGNATURE WILDLIFE

Puma, guanaco, condor, ñandú (rhea), huemul deer

Activities



Puerto Natales

Patagonian estancias — day visit
Balmaceda & Serrano Glaciers — boat navigation
Cerro Dorotea — half-day trek
Base Torres viewpoint — full-day trek
Panoramic national park tour — full-day

Torres del Paine — Trekking

W Trek (5D/4N)
O Circuit (9–11D)
Base Torres viewpoint (day hike)
French Valley
Condor viewpoint

Torres del Paine — Wildlife

Puma spotting with a naturalist guide
Guanaco and condor viewing
Patagonian wildlife photography

Punta Arenas

Magellanic penguins (Isla Magdalena / Seno Otway)
Reserva Nacional Magallanes — forest treks & viewpoints
City & Strait of Magellan — walking tour
Patagonian museums

Torres del Paine — Water and ice

Kayaking among icebergs (Lago Grey)
Boat tour to Grey Glacier
Ice hiking (crampons)
Fly fishing
Kayak

Torres del Paine — Other

Horseback riding between estancias
Mountain biking
Multi-sport (combined activities)
All-inclusive hotel programs

Accommodation



Puerto Natales

Hotel Altiplanico del Sur – C
Weskar Lodge – O
The Singular Patagonia Hotel – P
Remota Lodge – P
Best Western Borde Glaciar Hotel – O
Simple Patagonia Hotel Boutique – P
Hotel Costaustralis – C
Hotel Big Sur – O
Hotel Aquaterra – O
Hotel Vendaval – O
Hostal Factoría – B
Hotel Noi Indigo Patagonia – C
Hostal Alamo Patagonico – B
Bories Hotel Boutique Guest house – C
Casa de la Patagonia Hotel – O
Hostal Andes Patagonicos – B
Hotel Pristine Patagonia – O
Hotel Lady Florence Dixie – O

Punta Arenas

Hotel Almasur Punta Arenas – O
Hotel Boutique Yegua Loca – P
Ilaia Hotel – C
Hotel Cabo de Hornos – P
Innata Patagonia Hotel – B
Hostal Ventisqueros – B
Hotel Plaza – O
Hotel Albatros - B

Torres del Paine

Hotel Las Torres – P
Hotel Río Serrano – P
Pampa Lodge – C
Hotel Lago Grey – P
Hotel Estancia Ovejero Patagónico – C
Explora Hotel – P
Hostería Pehoé – C
Estancia Cerro Guido – P

TORRES DEL PAINE

Focus: Trekking Circuits in Torres del Paine National Park

A closer look at the national park's two iconic multi-day trekking routes — the W and the O — with sector maps, waypoints and the trails that connect them.

W Circuit & O Circuit

W Circuit

4D/3N — 5D/4N

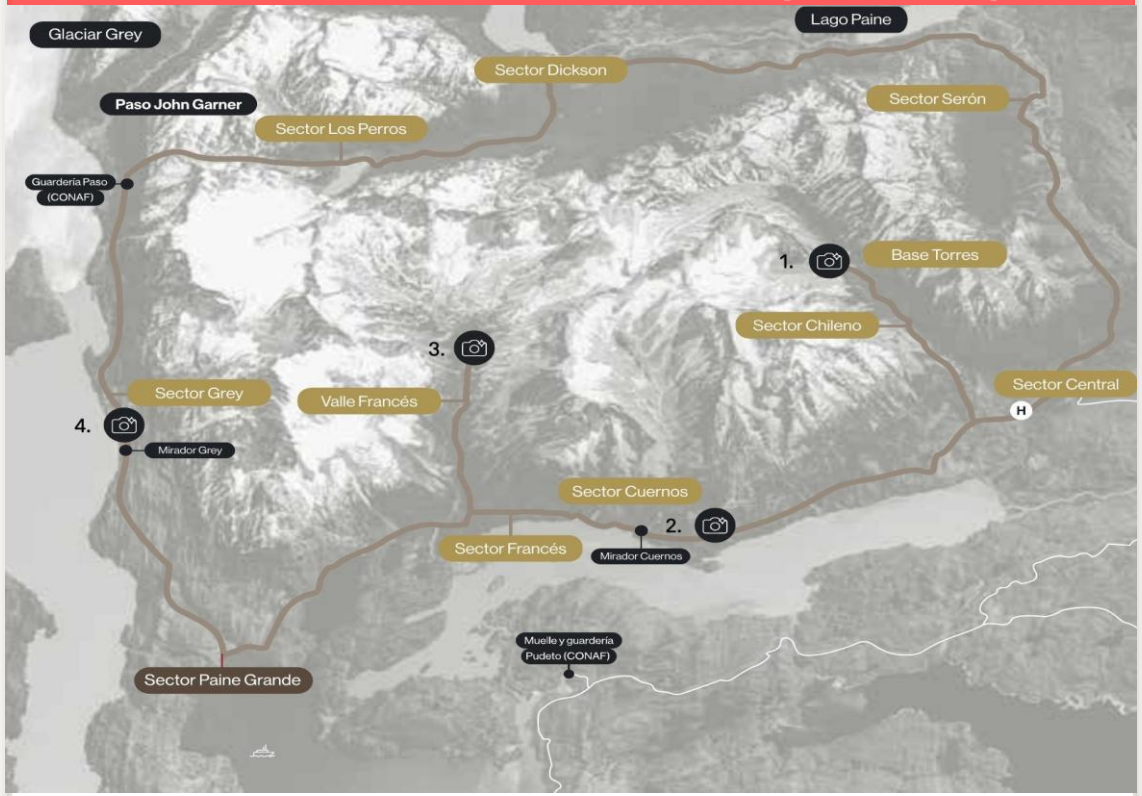


The most popular trek covers the three great valleys of the Paine massif, with overnight stays in refugios/campsites along the route.

Sectors: Chileno · Central · Cuernos · Francés · Grey

O Circuit

8D/7N — 9D/8N



The full version: circles the entire Paine massif, adding the northern sectors before joining the W route — for trekkers wanting more isolation.

Sectors: Dickson · Serón · Los Perros · Chileno · Central · Cuernos · Francés · Grey

Sectors of the Park



Central



Cuernos



Francés



Paine Grande



Grey



Serón



Dickson



Los Perros

ACCOMMODATION TYPES

Refugios: Hostel-style rooms with bunk beds.

Camping: Pre-pitched tents with a sleeping pad, for single or double use.

Both options share mixed bathrooms (separated by gender); breakfast and dinner are self-service in the refugio cafeteria. Refugios also have charging stations and rest areas open to all guests — camping and refugio alike — plus a small store for basic snacks.

Note: the Serón, Dickson and Los Perros sectors have much more limited infrastructure — accommodation there is camping only.



SOUTHERN PATAGONIA — ARGENTINA

Los Glaciares Region

Across the border in Argentine Patagonia, Los Glaciares National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site anchored by the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. El Calafate is the gateway to the Perito Moreno Glacier, while El Chaltén — Argentina's trekking capital — sits beneath the iconic granite spires of Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre.

SOUTHERN PATAGONIA — ARGENTINA

El Calafate

El Calafate is the gateway to Los Glaciares National Park, on the shore of Lago Argentino, with the region's main airport and widest range of hotels and services. It is the base for visiting the Perito Moreno Glacier — one of the few glaciers in the world still advancing — and a natural stop for travelers combining Argentine and Chilean Patagonia.



Most visits to the Perito Moreno Glacier run as a day trip from El Calafate — no multi-day trekking commitment required.

PERITO MORENO GLACIER

Day visit to the glacier's viewing walkways, from the shore of Lago Argentino

BIG ICE / MINITREKKING

Ice trekking with crampons on the surface of the Perito Moreno Glacier

NAUTICAL SAFARI

Boat navigation in front of the glacier's ice wall

LAGUNA NIMEZ RESERVE

Short birdwatching walk on the edge of town

ESTANCIA DAY TRIP

Visit to a traditional Patagonian sheep estancia near El Calafate

SOUTHERN PATAGONIA — ARGENTINA

El Chaltén

El Chaltén is Argentina's National Trekking Capital, a small village founded in 1985 at the foot of Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre. Unlike Torres del Paine, its best viewpoints are reached on free, well-marked day hikes straight from town, making it a flexible base for travelers who want world-class mountain scenery without a multi-day trek.



All of these hikes start and end in El Chaltén itself — no refugio stay or multi-day commitment required.

LAGUNA DE LOS TRES

Full-day trek to the classic viewpoint at the base of Fitz Roy

LAGUNA TORRE

Full-day trek to the lookout below Cerro Torre

MIRADOR DE LOS CÓNDORES

Short half-day walk with panoramic views over El Chaltén and the steppe

GLACIAR HUEMUL / LAGO DEL DESIERTO

Half or full-day excursions further afield from the village

VILLAGE & CLIMBING CULTURE

Easy stroll through town, with its mountaineering history and craft breweries

El Chaltén — Trekking

Laguna de los Tres

~20 km RT · 8–10 h · Full day

Difficulty: High

The classic trek to the base of Fitz Roy, with a steep final climb to the glacial lake and its close-up view of the granite spires.

Laguna Torre

~18 km RT · 7–9 h · Full day

Difficulty: Moderate–High

A long, scenic valley walk to the lookout below Cerro Torre, with views of the glacier feeding the lake when skies are clear.

Loma del Pliegue Tumbado

~12 km RT · 6–7 h · Half/full day

Difficulty: Moderate

A panoramic ridge walk with sweeping views over both Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre, plus Lago Viedma and the steppe — a gentler alternative.

All three treks depart from and return to El Chaltén on marked trails — no refugio stay or technical climbing experience required.

Activities



El Calafate

Perito Moreno Glacier — viewing walkways
Big Ice / Minitrekking (ice trekking with crampons)
Nautical Safari (boat navigation to the ice wall)
Upsala Glacier boat excursion
Spegazzini Glacier excursion
Walker Glacier trekking
Laguna Nimez Reserve — birdwatching
Lago Argentino kayaking
Estancia day trips
Horseback riding
Condor and raptor viewing
Guanaco viewing on the steppe
Patagonian wildlife photography

El Chaltén

Laguna de los Tres (Fitz Roy)
Laguna Torre (Cerro Torre)
Mirador de los Cóndores
Loma del Pliegue Tumbado
Glaciar Huemul trek
Lago del Desierto excursion
Chorrillo del Salto — easy waterfall walk
Piedras Blancas glacier viewpoint
Fitz Roy scenic flights (weather permitting)
Mountaineering history & climbing culture
Local craft breweries & village stroll
Birdwatching in the Chaltén valley

Accommodation



El Calafate

Hotel Rincón del Calafate – O
Hotel Sent– O
Hotel Kapenke – B
Hotel Design Suites Calafate – C
Hotel Las Dunas – B
Hotel Mirador Del Lago – C
Calafate Parque Hotel – C
Estancia La Estela – O
Hostería Kau Kaleshen – B
Hotel Los Ponchos – P
Hotel El Esplendor Calafate - P

El Chaltén

Patagonia Travellers Hostel – B
Hostería Senderos – C
Hotel Lunajuim – O
Hotel Destino Sur – P
Hotel Poincenot – O
Los Cerros del Chaltén Boutique Hotel – P
Hostería Fitz Roy – O
Hostería Vertical Lodge – O
Kaulem Hotel Boutique – C
Hostería Paraíso – O
Hostería Infinito Sur – O
Hostería El Puma Lodge – P
Hostería Don Atilio - B

THANK YOU

Patagonia awaits.