

Patagonia Wilderness & Wildlife Explorer

Peaks, Lakes, Glaciers & Guanacos on a Grand Andean Adventure





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Trip Details:

Days 11 Days / Nov– Mar

Price From \$16895

Physical Requirements Moderate

Patagonia Wilderness & Wildlife Explorer

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The southernmost Andes rise in spires to the sky, their sheer granite heights drawing the eye and spirit upward. Sunrise bathes the peaks in rosy alpenglow. Glaciers wind down in frozen rivers from the ice-crowned massifs, choking turquoise lakes with floating blue bergs. Patagonia has no peer on Earth when it comes to dramatic mountain landscapes. On our cross-border expedition into Chile and Argentina, look for condors, guanacos and elusive pumas on guided hikes. While never assured, puma sightings are on the rise, and we hope to get a glimpse of this stealthy hunter in Torres del Paine National Park. Learn about conservation strides on visits to working estancias where protecting wildlife and raising livestock are mutually compatible goals. Explore and photograph diverse facets of this legendary adventure realm on our all-encompassing odyssey to the bottom of South America.

Trip Highlights

From our base at luxurious Patagonia Camp, look for guanacos, huemul, condors and Darwin's rhea 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, watch icebergs 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



Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

El Calafate, Argentina

Day 2

Boat Cruise on Lago Argentino / Estancia Cristina

Day 3

Estancia Cristina / Upsala Glacier / El Calafate

Day 4

Los Glaciares National Park— Private Cruise to Perito Moreno Glacier

Day 5

Estancia Cerro Guido— Conservation & Gaucho Traditions

Davs 6 & 7

Cerro Guido Conservation Safaris
—Puma Restoration Project

Day 8

Torres del Paine National Park / Patagonia Camp

Patagonia Wilderness & Wildlife Explorer Itinerary

Peaks, Lakes, Glaciers & Guanacos on a Grand Andean Adventure

Day 1: El Calafate, Argentina

Our Patagonia journey begins in Argentina's adventure capital of El Calafate, where we meet our Expedition Leader and traveling companions at a welcome dinner. 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.







Itinerary At A Glance

Days 9 & 10Exploring Torres del Paine & Patagonia Camp

Day 11Transfer to Puerto Natales or Punta Arenas / Depart

Day 2: Boat Cruise on Lago Argentino / Estancia Cristina

Board a catamaran this morning to explore 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 experience 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. After lunch, explore further on foot or in the ranch's 4x4 vehicles that take us deeper into the Rio Caterina Valley. On our private excursions, solitude reigns, and we feel very small against the scale of this vast terrain. After a day of adventuring, 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 3: Estancia Cristina / Upsala Glacier / El Calafate

A stunning vista is in store 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 enjoy the view 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.





Day 4: 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 viewpoint 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 closer to the glacier's imposing blue face, more than three miles across. Stepping ashore again, we follow a maze of boardwalks offering varied vantage points on the glacier and icebergs drifting on the lake.

Day 5: 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 three 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. If we are especially lucky, we may also spot a puma—they are making a comeback, with concerted conservation efforts.

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.





Days 6 & 7: Cerro Guido Conservation Safaris—Puma Restoration Project

The next two days hold exciting adventures as we learn in-depth about Cerro Guido's impressive conservation values, goals and achievements. On one of our safaris, we participate in Cerro Guido's puma research project, launched in 2019. Rising early, we head into the field with professional puma researchers dedicated full-time to studying pumas that live in a particular sector of the ranch called Las Condoreras. "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. Of course, we keep a close watch for elusive pumas, although sightings are highly unpredictable and we do not always see them. However, we are sure to see other wildlife during overland safaris on the ranch, and we will come away inspired by the efforts being made to restore not just pumas but an entire balanced ecosystem.

Day 8: Torres del Paine National Park / Patagonia Camp

Today we cross the steppe to reach Chile's famous Torres Del Paine National Park, stopping at overlooks to admire the staggering views and capture photos. A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the park is home to a host of wildlife including guanaco, fox, huemul (South Andean deer), armadillo, and a growing number of pumas. 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 of the lake 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 an excursion into the wild nature surrounding us.





Days 9 & 10: 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, 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 more frequently in recent seasons.

Day 11: Transfer to Puerto Natales or Punta Arenas / Depart

Depart Patagonia Camp early 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.*







Accommodation Details:

Patagonia Camp

Estancia Cerro Guido

Estancia Cristina

Hotel Kosten Aike

Mirador del Lago

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

Patagonia Wilderness & Wildlife Explorer Accommodations

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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.



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.





Experience More of Patagonia, More Personally, with Nat Hab!

Though Patagonia is one of the world's most remote travel destinations, its matchless grandeur ensures there are plenty of guided group trips to choose from. But you'll be hard-pressed to find one as distinctive and comprehensive as ours. While many operators focus on either Chile or Argentina, we show you the best of both sides of the southernmost Andes—and in a manner that's adventurous yet very comfortable: no endurance treks or freezing tents!

A More Personalized Nature Experience

We limit our group to approximately 12 travelers. You'll enjoy quieter encounters with the natural world and plenty of personal attention from our Expedition Leader.

Varied Angles on Patagonia's Famous Glaciers

The Southern Patagonian ice fields are some of the largest on Earth, and glacier sightseeing is a highlight. In Los Glaciares National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, we do some light hiking near Perito Moreno, which unlike most glaciers is still advancing. We also view it from the water on a private boat trip on Lago Argentino, and watching icebergs calve from its 200-foot-high face is a matchless thrill. View Upsala Glacier from Estancia Cristina, too, an equally impressive sight.

- Unique Lodgings Include Coveted Patagonia Camp Nat Hab accommodations are often as memorable as the destinations we explore. Among the special places we stay is Patagonia Camp, with access to Chile's renowned Torres del Paine National Park. Warm, wind-resistant luxury yurts provide an immersion in the natural environs while offering supreme comfort. We also stay on two private conservation-focused ranches—Estancia Cristina and Estancia Cerro Guido—for an exclusive look at how sustainable agriculture works hand in hand with wildlife protection.
- Search for Secretive Wild Pumas

 Pumas—also known as cougars or mountain lions in North America—are elusive and rarely seen, but sightings in Chilean Patagonia are increasing, and we hope to spot one. Of course we can never guarantee we'll see a puma, but we have a special excursion planned to go in search of them, and we may be rewarded if we are lucky!





- Your Expedition Leader is One of Patagonia's Top Naturalist Guides Our Patagonia

 Expedition Leader is one of the most acclaimed guides in the region, with years of in-depth experience in the southern Andes. All our Expedition Leaders benefit from further resources provided by WWF scientists, so your trip is sure to be an adventure for the mind as well as the body and spirit. Read our Expedition Leader bios and traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.
- Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Superlative Patagonia Adventure 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.
- Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral JourneyWe 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.
- 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!





Make It Private with Your Family or Friends

Travel privately, exclusively with your immediate family, multi-generational family or group of friends. And when you choose a private departure, you're assured the most exclusive and authentic Patagonia adventure on offer. Request your private departure by completing the form below.

Please note that on Patagonia Make It Private departures we require a minimum group size of 6 travelers.

Also, please be aware that your per-person cost on a Make It Private trip will vary depending on the number of travelers in your group and may be as much as 10%-30% higher (ship-based trips may be even higher) than our normal trip cost unless you fill the trip.

This **Make It Private** option is available on nearly every Nat Hab trip for family and friend groups. Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917 or look for the "Make It Private" icon in the **pricing section** of a trip online at nathab.com to see prices based on your specific group size.



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices: From \$16895

Group Size:Limited to 12
Travelers

Physical Requirements: Moderate

Patagonia Wilderness & Wildlife Explorer Dates, Pricing & Info

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2025 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Nov 14, 2025	Nov 24, 2025	Habitat Club Pricing Available
Nov 17, 2025	Nov 27, 2025	
Nov 27, 2025	Dec 7, 2025	
Nov 30, 2025	Dec 10, 2025	
Dec 10, 2025	Dec 20, 2025	

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jan 18, 2026	Jan 28, 2026	
Jan 21, 2026	Jan 31, 2026	





Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices: From \$16895

Group Size: Limited to 12 Travelers

Physical Requirements: Moderate

Departure	Return	Notes
Jan 31, 2026	Feb 10, 2026	Habitat Club Pricing Available
Feb 3, 2026	Feb 13, 2026	
Feb 13, 2026	Feb 23, 2026	
Feb 16, 2026	Feb 26, 2026	Habitat Club Pricing Available
Feb 19, 2026	Mar 1, 2026	
Feb 26, 2026	Mar 8, 2026	
Mar 1, 2026	Mar 11, 2026	
Mar 11, 2026	Mar 21, 2026	
Mar 14, 2026	Mar 24, 2026	
Mar 24, 2026	Apr 3, 2026	
Nov 16, 2026	Nov 26, 2026	
Nov 19, 2026	Nov 29, 2026	
Nov 26, 2026	Dec 6, 2026	
Nov 29, 2026	Dec 9, 2026	
Dec 2, 2026	Dec 12, 2026	
Dec 9, 2026	Dec 19, 2026	

2027 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jan 18, 2027	Jan 28, 2027	
Jan 21, 2027	Jan 31, 2027	
Jan 24, 2027	Feb 3, 2027	
Jan 31, 2027	Feb 10, 2027	
Feb 3, 2027	Feb 13, 2027	
Feb 6, 2027	Feb 16, 2027	





Departure	Return	Notes
Feb 13, 2027	Feb 23, 2027	
Feb 16, 2027	Feb 26, 2027	
Feb 19, 2027	Mar 1, 2027	
Feb 26, 2027	Mar 8, 2027	
Mar 1, 2027	Mar 11, 2027	
Mar 4, 2027	Mar 14, 2027	
Mar 11, 2027	Mar 21, 2027	
Mar 14, 2027	Mar 24, 2027	
Mar 17, 2027	Mar 27, 2027	





Pricing

2025 Prices

> Trip Price \$15995 - \$17195

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$3795. **Click here** to learn how you can avoid the single supplement.

Deposit: \$500 per person (nonrefundable).

Make It Private: View pricing to take this trip privately with just you and your select travel companions.

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars. Please read our Payment & Refund Policy here.

2026 Prices

Mouse over or tap dates above to view prices for specific departure dates.

> Trip Price \$16895 to \$17195

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$3495. **Click here** to learn how you can avoid the single supplement.

Deposit: \$500 per person (nonrefundable).

Make It Private: View pricing to take this trip privately with just you and your select travel companions.

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars. **Please read our Payment & Refund Policy here.**

2027 Prices

We're still in the process of confirming 2027 pricing. Please contact an Adventure Specialist for more details: 800-543-8917.

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.







Physical Requirements

Moderate

This immersion in the spectacular scenery and wildlife of the Southern Andes includes a diverse range of activities, from short hikes to boat excursions and scenic drives. Weather is extremely variable in Patagonia, and travelers should be prepared to experience the possibility of high winds, intense sun, heavy rain and very cold temperatures. Most hikes are easy to moderate in terms of challenge and exertion, though all **guests must be able to walk a minimum of 2 miles over hilly, uneven terrain** that may cross wet or slippery surfaces. Hiking days range from 2-5 miles based on the weather conditions, interest of the group, and ability. Elevations generally range between 500 and 2,000 feet above sea level. Since Patagonia encompasses such a large area, and we aim to see a broad sampler of its natural beauty, we will have one long driving day between Argentina and Chile, though most vehicle transfers between destinations will be relatively short, with stops along the way.

On custom or private departures with smaller groups, our ability to accommodate varying levels of physical abilities or interests is limited, since these trips are staffed with a single Expedition Leader who may be assisted, pending availability, by local guides.

Important Information About This Trip

This realm of mountains and glaciers is among the most magnificent geographic settings on the planet. On many Patagonia tours, visitors trek long distances and camp in tents to experience the natural splendors of the region. In contrast, our trip utilizes atmospheric, well-appointed small hotels and lodges that place us among some of Patagonia's most striking scenery in genuine comfort. In order to experience the region most fully, please be prepared for some drives (all are scenic!) and easy to moderate hikes over uneven natural terrain. Optional more challenging hikes may also be offered in order to access some of the most scenic areas.

Mandatory Insurance

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.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. 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

Arrival: Please arrive in El Calafate, Argentina no later than 4 pm on Day 1 in order to attend a welcome dinner at 6 pm.

Departure: Guests are free to depart from Punta Arenas, Chile after 1:30pm on the final day or from Puerto Natales at anytime. While flights are more limited out of Puerto Natales, the final day transfer is shorter than to Punta Arenas from Patagonia Camp.

We can best serve you if our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk makes your reservations, since we are intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program and can arrange the most efficient travel. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer you the best possible rates available to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may find special web rates or better fares online.





Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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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.