

Patagonia Photography Itinerary

[Link: Patagonia Photography](#)

Tour Overview

Patagonia is home to some of the world's most picturesque landscapes. The southern reaches of Chile and Argentina offer a diverse and spectacular array of photo opportunities, from the windswept pampas to towering granite peaks. With these as backdrops we'll be guaranteed to observe and photograph wildlife such as guanacos, rheas, condors and more, in their natural settings.

The wild ambience of Patagonia ensures that close encounters are possible around every corner. Stunning Torres del Paine national park plays host to the most accessible wild puma viewing anywhere in the world!

On our Patagonia Photography tour, we will travel through southern Chile and Argentina visiting some five-star South American attractions: Torres del Paine National Park, the Fitzroy massif, and the Perito Moreno Glacier. Aside from these we'll traverse less traveled but equally stunning areas, each adding variety to our portfolio of trip images.

Our expert bilingual guide will be on hand every step of the way, offering tips and guidance for beginners, and getting advanced photographers in the optimum location. Our itinerary will cater to all ability levels and types of equipment. Even without a camera, this is a high-quality wildlife tour. In mid-April the fall colours will be firing.

During this journey we'll enjoy the charming culture of Chile and the local cuisine that puts Argentina on the map. Although we'll brave the elements that make this part of the world so stark and beautiful, we'll also relax with the comforts and modern amenities that both of these countries offer.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in El Calafate, Argentina

Our Patagonia photo tour begins in El Calafate. We will meet in the evening for dinner and discuss the upcoming trip. If the weather cooperates it's possible to see the Andes from town. Night: El Calafate

Day 2: Perito Moreno Glacier



Perito Moreno glacier, one of Argentina's top attractions is located in Los Glaciares National Park about forty-five minutes from town. We get amazing views of this behemoth spilling chunks of ice into Lago Argentina, while fall colours reveal themselves at treeline above. We have plenty of time here to capture the majesty of this gigantic glacier as it advances toward the elaborate viewing platforms. Austral Parakeets, Fiery-eyed Diucons and Thorn-tailed Rayaditos might dictate keeping the long lenses in hand. After we've had our fill we return to El Calafate and continue onward to the towering spires of Fitzroy and Cerro Torre. Night: El Chaltén

Day 3: El Chaltén



Sunrise on the Fitzroy, or El Chaltén massif is our pre-breakfast target this morning. With luck, we'll frame pampas, colourful lenga trees and towering spires not far from roadside and with coffees in hand. On site we'll discuss the use of filters and lens techniques to capture images as crisp as the autumn air. This scene of El Chaltén and Cerro Torre epitomizes the stark landscape of Patagonia. These peaks are truly impressive sights. After breakfast we'll roam this northern section of Los Glaciares for more images, including a stunning waterfall that provides more scenic opportunities. For the telephoto lenses the area hosts Chilean Flickers, Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle and both Spectacled and Torrent Ducks. The mountain backdrop is not to be missed, and we'll hope for clear vistas that so often materialize at this time of year. Night: El Chaltén

Day 4: Transfer to El Calafate



In the morning we will explore the lakes and mountains to the north of El Chalten. This area is a great place to fine-tune our imagery before heading back to El Calafate, and we often find the best fall colors of the trip here. Stretching our legs on some trails is a possibility. On the way to El Calafate we'll drive past the turquoise Lagos Viedma and stop whenever something exciting shows up! Night: El Calafate

Day 5: Transfer to Torres del Paine, Chile



In the morning we will visit a local wetland with opportunities for some wildlife photography. After that, we'll have several hours of travel as we cross into Chile toward the jaw-dropping Torres del Paine. Night: Torres del Paine

Day 6: Torres del Paine, Chile



Arguably the single most scenic location in all of South America, Torres del Paine is a photographer's dream. Today we'll employ a local puma tracking guide, and be out early to help us get into position for the most dramatic photos possible. Here we'll have our best chance at photographing a puma, however many other subjects will beckon, including condors, guanacos and rheas on the protected pampas. Night: Torres del Paine

Day 7: Torres del Paine



We continue exploring and photographing the park, combining landscapes and wildlife when possible. We'll enjoy some short hikes, one or more waterfall sessions and a trip to Lago Grey with its icebergs and forest of Southern Beech. Magellanic Woodpeckers are found in these gnarled woods, and if lucky, a roosting owl. An endangered deer, the Huemul, is possible in this area. Night: Torres del Paine

Day 8: Transfer to Puerto Natales



After our final morning session in the park we head south to Puerto Natales. Anywhere along the way we can get out for some scenic landscapes—and if conditions cooperate, we may spot soaring condors along the cliffs. We will visit the Cueva del Mylodón, an impressive cave where these ground sloths were once found. Night: Puerto Natales

Day 9: Serrano Glacier (Chilean Fjords Boat Trip), Chile



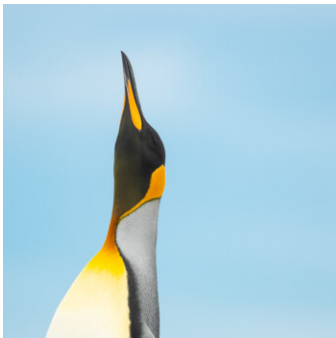
Today we've scheduled a boat trip to a very scenic, less-accessible destination west of Puerto Natales in the Chilean Fjords region. Aboard a large boat serving coffee, tea and snacks, we'll traverse near the base of cascading waterfalls with nesting condors before arriving at a short hike that takes us to the base of a tumbling glacier. We enjoy lunch at an estancia, or farm, with kingfishers and geese as photo subjects. Night: Puerto Natales

Day 10: Transfer to Cerro Sombrero, Chile



We keep moving through the far south, where terrestrial wildlife abounds on the steppe. This is guanaco country, where large herds roam freely. We will explore the steppe and volcanic landscape with scenic pull-offs for rheas under big skies, as we make our way to Cerro Sombrero. We will cross the Strait of Magellan on a ferry where it's possible to see penguins, terns, and Commerson's Dolphin. Night: Cerro Sombrero

Day 11: King Penguins and Ferry to Punta Arenas



From Cerro Sombrero, we'll visit South America's only mainland colony of King Penguins, where adults and juveniles do their thing on the other side of a handy viewing blind. We'll also stop at roadside salt lakes to find Chilean Flamingos. In the afternoon we take the ferry crossing from Porvenir to Punta Arenas—an exciting opportunity to view seabirds such as Black-browed Albatross and Southern Giant Petrel and marine mammals including Dusky Dolphin. In Punta Arenas we know a place to find Lesser Horned Owl. Night: Punta Arenas

Day 12: Departure from Punta Arenas, Chile

Our Patagonia Photography tour ends this morning in Punta Arenas. You can depart anytime. There are usually several flights to Santiago where you can connect to flights home.

What to Expect

Overview

The Patagonia Photo Tour is a moderately paced photography trip. The focus of this tour is taking amazing photos of landscapes and wildlife.

Food

We generally have breakfast at the hotel before we head out for the day. We sometimes take a picnic lunch in the field, but will usually stop at a restaurant. Dinner is usually at the lodge or a nearby restaurant, and is usually served quite late, especially in Argentina. Each evening after dinner we review the day's activities, discuss editing techniques.

Accommodation

Accommodations range from standard hotel rooms to rustic lodges, close to our birding locations.

Walking

The walking on this tour is fairly easy however trails can be uneven and slippery. The longest walk is approximately 4kms (2.5 miles) of which 400 metres (0.25 miles) is on an uphill trail.

Driving

Most days have a small to moderate amount of driving. There will be two longer drives, but we make several stops along the way.

Climate

During the tour you will encounter a wide variety of weather conditions. Temperatures will vary widely, with the potential for cold conditions – especially on the water. Weather is usually fairly pleasant but we can encounter some strong winds and possibly rain while exploring. During the day it can be warm but unlikely hot, and participants should be prepared for some cool days and cold mornings. Average temperatures range between 2 – 14°C (35 – 57°F.)

Boat Trips

The boat trip at Chilean Fiords will be on a large boat with a washroom on board. Capacity is around 150 people. Navigation is subject to weather, but we usually encounter smooth conditions.

What's Included

Tour Price Includes

- All accommodations
- All meals and soft drinks
- Guides: 1 guide with 4 - 8 participants
- Ground transportation
- Park entry/ tour fees
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers

Tour Price Does Not Include

- Flights to and from start/end
 - Travel Insurance
 - Items of a personal nature
 - Alcoholic Beverages
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