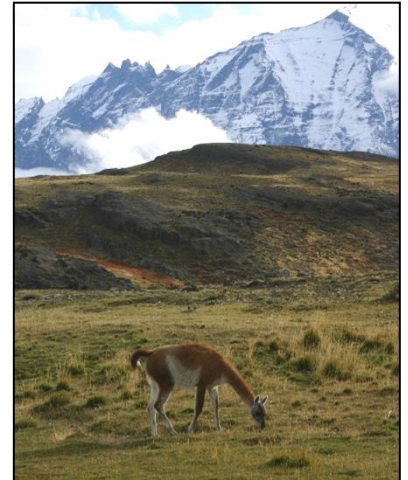
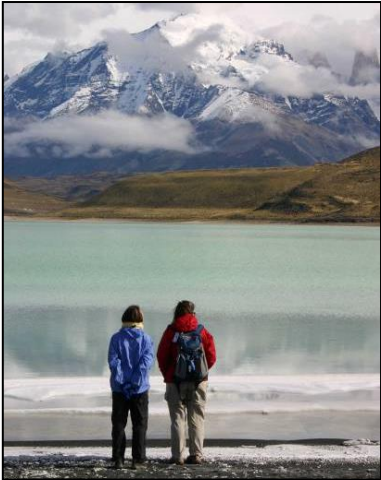




CHILE

PAINE PARK LODGE ADVENTURE

Torres del Paine National Park - Acclaimed as one of "50 Places of a Lifetime"
by National Geographic Traveler



DURATION: 10 days/9 nights
SEASON: November through March
DEPARTURE: Guaranteed with a minimum of 4 participants
TRIP RATING: Moderate/Strenuous Walking Adventure, Grade (III) - This active trip includes 6 days of lodge or hotel-based hiking that average 8.5 miles per day at elevations below 2,500' plus scenic overland travel on some dirt roads.

2024/25 DATES: On request any week throughout the season

INTRODUCTION:

Patagonia . . . the name conjures up images of gauchos riding vast, windswept expanses and recalls the era of the cowboy and westward expansion in the American West. True to this vision, the sparsely populated plains and peaks of southern Chile are scattered with enormous *estancias*, or sheep and cattle ranches, and contain some of the Continent's most impressive and dramatic wilderness areas. Torres del Paine National Park, one of the most spectacular destinations in the Western Hemisphere, compares favorably to world-renowned destinations like Yosemite or Glacier National Park in the USA, and should be on every hiker's list! The highlight of this rewarding adventure is 6 exciting days of hiking beneath the park's towering granite walls and icy peaks, considered by many to be South America's best hiking experience.

Following an overnight flight to Santiago, connect south to Puerto Natales, a quaint port town overlooking Last Hope Sound. The next day, we drive north through the rolling countryside of southern Patagonia to Paine National Park with a short hike and wildlife viewing en route before arriving at a hiking lodge near the Ascencio River. From this base, we warm-up with a hike along the banks of Nordenskjold Lake before venturing out the next day to hike to the base of the Paine Towers for an outstanding, close-up view of the mountain's rock walls and hanging glaciers. Our adventure continues with a boat ride and hike along Grey Lake, to see the impressive 4-mile-wide Grey Glacier originating from the continental ice field. Natural beauty and wildlife abound in Paine Park. The imposing walls of the *Cuernos* (Paine horns), dominate the horizon and tower ahead of us as we walk from Pehoé Lake to the remarkable French Valley, one of the park's most scenic regions. We spent the last three nights in a cozy hotel, offering superb views with a hike along the secluded Pingo River Valley. We return to the Puerto Natales airport to catch our flight north to Santiago with an overnight flight homeward.

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DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 01: HOME / SANTIAGO

Depart home on an overnight flight to Chile's capital, **Santiago**, located at a comfortable 1,800 ft elevation at the base of the Andes.

DAY 02: SANTIAGO / PUERTO NATALES

Arrive early this morning in **Santiago (SCL)**. Connect on your own in the airport to the 3.5 hour flight south to **Puerto Natales (PNT)**, gateway to Paine National Park. Here we meet our Southwind private guide and transfer together to the centrally located [CostAustralis](#), one of the town's finest hotels located on the shores of the **Last Hope Sound**. Across from the hotel, Black-necked swans are often seen paddling at sunset. This afternoon, enjoy a brief tour of this charming pedestrian-oriented town, including the main square, Historical Museum and craft center. The Costanera walkway leads to our hotel where we settle in for a restful night. Meals are on your own today.

DAY 03: PUERTO NATALES / PAINE NATIONAL PARK

After a breakfast, meet your guide and transfer 1.5 hours northward across the Patagonian expanses toward **Torres del Paine National Park**, declared a **Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO** and the eighth wonder of the world in 2013. (pronounced pie-knee, meaning "blue" in the Mapuche language). At the Milodon Cave Natural Monument, we take a short walk to see where evidence was discovered of a prehistoric mammal thought to have roamed the area approx 14,000 years ago. As we continue driving, local *ovejeros* (herders) along the route, direct large herds of sheep and cattle to their pastures. The western slopes of the Andes are lush and green from bountiful rain, making for a scenic drive. After passing through a Chilean village near the Argentine border named Cerro Castillo, we get our first views of the Paine massif towering above the plains in the distance. As we draw closer to the deep blue waters of Sarmiento Lake, the impressive granite *Torres*, or Towers are distinguished. The park was established in 1970 and given World Heritage status in 1978. We are greeted by small herds of guanacos, a wild relative of the llama. At the Sarmiento Park Station we can take a short hike, following a trail over the steppe-covered foothills, past small ponds and meadows to the **Laguna Amarga** guard station. Possible wildlife sightings include the buff-necked ibis, red-fox, hare, flamingo, rheas and upland goose. From this point, a short drive takes us to the Cascada Paine for some panoramic views; then, we drive along a dirt road to reach the comfortable [Hotel Las Torres Patagonia](#), set beneath the Paine Towers, near the Ascencio River at 650 ft elevation.

Driving distance: 80 miles/2.5 hours; **Hiking distance:** 4.5 miles/2.5 hours

(B,BL,D)

DAY 04: NORDENSKJOLD LAKE HIKE

Our warm-up route this morning begins with an easy/moderate hike, past a few small lakes including Laguna Inge. We skirt the foot of Mount Almirante Nieto (8,755'), then continue along the base of the Paine peaks, following a rolling trail along the northern shores of turquoise-colored Lake Nordenskjold. We pass through brushy areas, negotiate boggy sections and tackle stream crossings, jumping from boulder to boulder, as we make our way through the foothills up and down towards a lookout point where we can get a glimpse of the impressive **Paine Horns**. There are 25 species of mammals recorded in the park including huemul, a type of deer found only in Chile, and puma, both of which are seen on occasion. We return to our hotel for refreshing and rewarding lunch following the same trail. In December and January, fields of daisies and other wildflowers fill the meadows. This afternoon our guide may recommend another shorter hike such as the trail along the foothills of Cerro Paine and towards an old-growth lenga forest. This is one of Patagonia's iconic trees, the *Nothofagus pumilio* that thrives in wet areas with low temperatures. We might explore in the surroundings looking for birdlife, cachanas, or Austral parakeets, Magellanic Woodpeckers, Pitios or Chilean Flickers among others, or venture out with your private driver and guide to hike along Laguna Azul looking for different views of the Paine Towers. As we get back to our hotel and watch the afternoon light and clouds play across the mountains, we look forward to tomorrow's adventure. Dinner is included at the Coiron restaurant at [Hotel Las Torres Patagonia](#), which features exquisite Patagonian cuisine and produce grown in their own organic greenhouse.

Nordenskjold hiking distance: 6 miles/4.5 hours

(B,L,D)

DAY 05: PAINE TOWERS HIKE

Today we have a demanding, but highly rewarding hike with a 2,600' elevation gain. Those who would rather not participate are welcome to remain in the valley, enjoying short hikes in the immediate vicinity. We take a trail that leads across the **Ascencio River**, then uphill along a steep path paralleling the river's right bank. As we gain altitude, following a lenga and cypress-lined gorge, we have excellent vistas of the Paine River, winding its way through the surrounding countryside below us. We cross a boulder moraine to reach the high cirque where we find the basecamp from which expert climbers from around the world attempt to scale the sheer granite walls of the

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Paine Towers. It is an awe-inspiring experience as we marvel at the scene before us. The impressive granite spires of the near-vertical towers, rocky moraines and hanging glaciers surround a lovely turquoise-colored tarn allowing for superb close-up views and outstanding photo opportunities. After a lunch break beneath Torres Norte (8,530'), Central (9,185'), and Sur (9,350'), we descend along the same trail to the comforts of the [Hotel Las Torres Patagonia](#), adjacent to one of the only working ranches within the park's limits. After a day of hiking, you can retire to the bar or lounge for a drink, or to the spa for a massage.

Hiking distance: 11.5 miles/8 hours

(B,BL,D)

DAY 06: GREY LAKE & GREY GLACIER

This morning we meet our guide and drive to **Laguna Amarga** for a brief walk on the lakeshore where we may be able to photograph the Towers reflected on the lake. We continue driving along the scenic dirt road south of the Paine massif and pass by lakes Nordenskjold and Pehoé to cross the Paine River and arrive to the guard station at Lago Grey. We walk along the lakeshore looking for the best views and some small icebergs. At noon we catch the Grey III catamaran for an hour-long voyage along this lovely lake surrounded by peaks. As we get closer to our destination, we view the spectacular 4-mile-wide glacier in the distance, one of three that originate at the Continental Ice Cap. We may observe the drift of turquoise-colored icebergs, blown to the opposite end of the lake by the unrelenting winds. We disembark at the Refugio Grey and enjoy a picnic lunch in this forested area.

In the afternoon we hike to **Pehoé Lake**, contouring the lower slopes of Cerro Paine Grande (the park's highest peak at 10,007'). Views of Cerro Zapata (5,020') and several sparkling waterfalls cascading down the mountainsides add to this alluring outing. This area is also excellent for photography and watching for condors, sometimes passing within 100 feet of us as they soar across the ridges. The trail passes a small, secluded lake before reaching a final ridge with fabulous views of Pehoé Lake. We catch the last catamaran at 6:30pm for the picturesque ride to Pudeto. Once at the other side of the lake we visit Salto Grande Falls, formed where Lake Nordenskjold flows into Lake Pehoé. Later, we drive to the [Hotel Rio Serrano](#), a comfortable lodge at elevation 435 ft with a modern design and rustic features, the superb restaurant offers an excellent wine bar.

Hiking distance: 7 miles/4 hours

(B,BL,D)

DAY 07: PINGO RIVER VALLEY

This morning we drive to the western more isolated section of the park to hike along the secluded **Pingo River Valley**. A gentle well-marked forest trail provides a different landscape and scenic mountain views. Huemul, grey fox and other wildlife can sometimes be seen. With 105 species of birds in the park, birdwatchers have an opportunity to see the grebe, coot, upland goose, torrent duck, and oyster catcher among others. After 1.5 hours we arrive at the viewpoint of the Chorrillo Los Salmones Cascade, sometimes we might see salmon jumping down these waters. On the drive back, we stop at the visitor center for an overview of the park and geological forces that created the dramatic Paine formations. We arrive at our hotel on time for a hearty lunch. In the afternoon we may keep exploring the nearby Serrano River trails or continue a short distance to the Weber bridge, from where we follow an easy short trail towards the turquoise colored Toro Lake. On the way we may see wildlife tracks of pumas or foxes, and with luck spot condors in flight. We ascend to an overlook where we enjoy panoramic views. On the descent, following another trail, we pass by a forest and lagoon. Back at the hotel we prepare for our gear for the next day's long and scenic hike. This evening, we enjoy a congenial dinner at the [Hotel Rio Serrano](#).

Pingo Valley hiking distance: 7 miles/3.5 hours. **Driving distance:** 72 miles or 3 hours.

(B,L,D)

DAY 08: PEHOE LAKE / FRENCH VALLEY

Rising early for a full day of activities, we drive through the park to the Pudeto boat docks on **Pehoé Lake**. At 9:30am, we board the first catamaran for a 20 minute ride across the lake. The vessel is covered, during good weather it's nice to stand outside to take in the wonderful views of the impressive peaks above the Caribbean-turquoise waters. A trail then leads us through the rolling foothills at the base of Paine Grande peak. Dotted with scattered scrub forests, in November and December these hillsides are a brilliant red, covered with the blossoms of the fire brush. There are 200 species of plants found in Paine, including Calafate bushes and the lovely yellow Lady's Slippers, or *Calceolaria*. We cross the **French River** on a foot bridge to reach the Italiano Camp area and follow a steep trail along the narrow gorge, gaining a total of 1,850' in elevation.

Our route takes us through lenga forests on the southeastern slopes of **Cerro Paine Grande** and crosses a few small creeks. Gaining altitude, we scramble through boulder moraines to the first lookout point at 2,175'. On a clear day our efforts are rewarded with an extraordinary vista of the cirque and high peaks. The granite walls of the Paine Horns (8,530'), as well as the Máscara (7,545') and Espada spires (8,205') directly to the east, are especially

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spectacular. Marveling at the geology of these incredible rock formations, we watch as patches of snow break loose and thunder down Cerro Paine's rock and ice face in the distance. Returning along the same trail to the Pehoé Lake area, we catch the last catamaran at 6:30pm across the lake where our vehicle brings us back to the welcoming comfort of the [Hotel Rio Serrano](#).

French Valley hiking distance: 11 miles/8 hours.

(B,BL,D)

DAY 09: PAINÉ NATIONAL PARK / PUERTO NATALES / SANTIAGO

After a leisurely breakfast and check-out, we say goodbye to Paine Park and drive 1.5-2 hours to **Puerto Natales**, skirting **Lago del Toro Lake**. Small herds of guanaco roam freely here in the Patagonian steppe providing nice photo ops with their *chulengos* youngsters. At the **Puerto Natales (PNT)** airport, we check-in for our 3.5 hour flight north to **Santiago (SCL)**. Upon arrival, connect on your own by walking the short distance to the International Terminal to check-in for an overnight flight back home. **Driving distance:** 55 miles/1.5 hours. (B)

DAY 10: SANTIAGO / HOME

Arrive back in your gateway city this morning to clear customs and make onwards connections home.

NOTES ON THE ITINERARY: A flexible attitude and good physical condition are required to participate in this trip. Due to the extremely changeable nature of the weather in Patagonia, day-to-day activities are subject to modification at any time. Hiking segments may vary according to group and road/river/trail/lake conditions. Hiking and driving distances and altitudes are approximate, and times indicated are NET, not including lunch breaks, rest stops, time to explore the surroundings, etc. Estimated driving times may vary due to speed limits at the park and high winds or other weather factors, as well as road conditions. This trip is suitable for physically fit participants accustomed to outdoor activities; minimum age is 12.

To coincide with the itinerary indicated above for DAYS 6 & 8, departures should be from November 11, 2024 to March 08, 2025. Paine Park Lodge Adventure is still possible with departures earlier than November 11 or later than March 08, but the hike on DAY 08 will be shorter in order to follow the Pehoé Lake catamaran's seasonal schedule. On DAY 07 the Pingo River Valley hike may be substituted for the hike up to Mount Ferrier lookout or another hike in the same area, depending on Park's onsite regulations. Pingo Valley is a secluded and restricted area where the forest and wildlife are well protected.

Due to seasonal restrictions, instead of the Hotel Las Torres Patagonia or Rio Serrano at Paine we may stay at the equally comfortable and nearby Lago Grey Hotel or at the cozy Patagonia Camp. Most hikes are optional, allowing for participants with a slower hiking pace to cover fewer miles than more enthusiastic group members. Trails are well-marked, but it is recommended that you have intermediate mountain or wilderness hiking experience and remain in visual contact with the group since there will typically be one guide with the group. In addition to changeable weather, another important factor in Patagonia is the tremendous distances that must be covered. This is a vast region comparable to the combined territory of Texas, California and Montana. There are many unpaved roads and no regular local air service (except for flights into Puerto Natales and Punta Arenas). We have designed this adventure to minimize the amount of driving, but keep in mind that we still cover 350 miles.

2024 LAND COST:

4-5 participants:	from \$7,100 p.p.d.
6-9 participants:	from \$6,500 p.p.d.
10-12 participants:	from \$6,000 p.p.d.
Single Supplement:	from \$1,600

p.p.d.= per person based on double or triple occupancy not including airfare.

2024 Land Costs are valid for departures through March 2025.

Holiday travel dates could have a Land Cost surcharge of 10-15%.

ESTIMATED AIRFARE:

The Land Cost DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Southwind's ticketing specialist can assist with all your air travel – providing an airfare quote to match your itinerary, personalized support for seating, monitoring schedule changes and coordinating directly with the airlines if any adjustments are needed. Round-trip **international** air from US gateway cities is approximately \$900-1,100 per person. Dec 15-Jan 15 is a peak travel time so higher fares may apply. International carriers offering non-stop service from US gateways include; **American** (Dallas, Miami &

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JFK), **United** (Houston), **Delta** (Atlanta) and **LATAM** (LAX, JFK & Miami). Local **in-country** flights ARE NOT INCLUDED; budget on approx \$300-\$450 per person for the roundtrip local air with LATAM (Santiago-Puerto Natales-Santiago). Be advised that it may be necessary to arrive in Santiago 1 day prior to the trip schedule depending on flight times to Puerto Natales. There are direct daily flights from Santiago to Punta Arenas as a backup, but that route extends the overland time drive by 3 hours (inquire with us for details). Airfares are subject to change at any time before tickets are issued. You have the option to arrange your own flights or redeem award travel yourself if you prefer. Tickets should only be purchased after Southwind notifies you that your trip is confirmed. The airlines request that tickets match your passport name. Upon receipt of your deposit, Southwind provides flight booking details for your travel dates.

SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Comprehensive **pre-departure planning information** and expert travel advice.
- **In-country transfers** as noted. Ground transportation in spacious private vehicles with professional drivers.
- Boat or Catamaran transportation where applicable on a seat-in-boat basis (other travelers will be aboard, but our group will be privately escorted).
- All **accommodations in (4 star) boutique style hotels & mountain lodges** as listed (or at similar properties in Paine) with double occupancy (king/queen or twin beds) in superior/preferential rooms with views and private bath. Upgrades to Jr Suites or Suites can be quoted according to interest.
- Single Supplement provides single room accommodations. Due to the small size of most boutique lodges in Paine Park, if you require single accommodations, making reservations well in advance is recommended.
- All **meals** indicated on the itinerary (B=breakfast; BL=box lunch; L=lunch; D=dinner). **Vegetarian diets accommodated** on request with advance notification. For other diets, contact us prior to your reservation.
- All **guided tours & excursions** (as listed) conducted on a private basis by knowledgeable, English-speaking resident guides in each region (includes applicable entrance fees). The boat ride on Paine's Grey Lake & the catamaran ride on Pehoé Lake are operated on a seat-in-boat basis.
- **First-class hiking service** including:
 - Experienced, knowledgeable & English-speaking Andean guide (assistant guide provided for groups with 9 or more participants).
 - Packed or picnic lunch during full day hikes.
 - Entrance fees to parks & reserves.
 - First-aid kit.

NOT INCLUDED:

- US domestic, international flights, nor local flights within Chile.
- Tours, meals (at about \$35-50 each per person) or other services not listed on the itinerary.
- Early arrivals, dayrooms or late check-outs at hotels.
- Alcoholic beverages nor items of a personal nature; such as clothing, equipment, laundry and phone calls.
- Tips to the local staff.
- Expenses incurred in preparing for this program such as, but not limited to, non-refundable airline tickets or traveler's insurance, nor additional expenses resulting from flight delays, schedule changes, cancellations, or missed connections.

OPTIONAL SANTIAGO & VALPARAISO VISIT: Participants with an extra day or two of vacation time are **highly recommended** to stay longer and explore Chile's lively capital, the surrounding countryside, wineries or Valparaiso on the Pacific coast. Santiago's blend of cosmopolitan and historic neighborhoods is worth a visit as are the world-class Chilean vineyards. The seaside hill city of Valparaiso is a short drive from the capital and beloved for its cultural street art, food scene and boutique accommodations overlooking the bay. Valparaiso's historic quarter is a **UNESCO World Heritage site**. Customize your extension at the beginning or end of your itinerary according to interest. Contact your Southwind Travel Consultant for suggestions and a price quote.

PATAGONIA COMBINATION with ARGENTINA: we recommend connecting the Chilean side of Patagonia with Los Glaciers National Park on the Argentina side of Patagonia based from the town of El Calafate on the shores of Lake Argentino. This can be arranged as a fully private itinerary that begins in Santiago and finishes in Buenos Aires (or vice versa). We can also arrange an all-inclusive lodge in Paine Park with small group excursions in Chile together with private guided services in Argentina.

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OPTIONAL TRIP EXTENSIONS: Participants with extra days can extend the trip to visit Chile's other impressive destinations. We recommend a 5 day/4 night excursion to Easter Island, a 4 day/3 night pre-extension to the Lake District or a 4 day/3 night visit to the Atacama Desert. Extensions require a minimum of 2 participants. For details see [Paine Park Lodge Adventure Extensions](#).

PATAGONIAN WEATHER:

Located at the southern tip of the South American continent, the Patagonia region is a land of capricious weather that includes high winds, snow and rain. The best time of the year for hiking in this area is the period of November through early March. Although temperatures seldom reach extremes (average daytime highs range from 58-72°F according to cloud cover and/or sunshine, with nighttime temperatures ranging from 40-45°F), the weather is extremely changeable, varying from warm sunshine, to drizzle, to rain and/or sleet in a matter of minutes and returning to sunshine just as quickly. Wind is a constant factor, ranging from strong breezes of 15-20 mph to gale forces reaching up to 60 mph on some of the saddles. To ensure comfort, clothing must be readily and quickly adaptable to such changing conditions.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend purchasing coverage to protect your trip investment. Travel insurance is important in case of unexpected events prior to departure causing the need to cancel or change your dates. Weather, natural events, medical reason, quarantine, local strikes, personal injury/illness (for you, your traveling companion or family members at home), could require itinerary interruption or changes. Missed connections, delayed arrival, lost/delayed baggage or the need for medical attention or evacuation are also reasons why coverage is important. Southwind recommends **Travel Insured International** which offers coverage options at a good value. If you, your traveling companion or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition, you can still receive coverage if a recurrence of the condition forces you to cancel your trip, but you do need to purchase a plan **within 21 days of your deposit**. Southwind can provide eQuote for insurance to review upon receipt of your deposit and Trip Reservation eForm. [Learn more about coverage offered by Travel Insured International](#)

HOW TO SIGN UP: Please complete Southwind's [Trip Reservation eForm](#). There are fields for up to 6 travelers per form with the same address. The deposit is **\$2,000 per person**, [please click here to pay your deposit](#) by any major credit card through our secure CardConnect system. In the total amount due box, enter your deposit amount (without a comma) based on the number of travelers in your party. If you prefer, you can also call us at 1-800-377-9463 to make payment arrangements by phone or send a check. You will receive confirmation of your deposit.

Reservations can be accepted up to 60 days before departure, provided services and space are available. Due to the popularity of Patagonia and Paine Park, we recommend making reservations at least 4 months in advance for non-holiday or about 1 year prior for holiday departures. Once your trip is guaranteed to operate, you will receive comprehensive pre-departure planning documents by email.

Land Balance: Final payment is due at 120 days by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, check, or electronic funds transfer. You can split your balance on two cards. Your trip invoice will indicate your balance due. Cancellation Fees and other policies are outlined under your private trip proposal or the current Terms & Conditions on Southwind's website.

We look forward to having you travel with us in Chile!

Southwind Adventures, Inc

Your Latin America Travel Specialist since 1990
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