



CHILE

PAINE PARK LODGE ADVENTURE

Torres del Paine National Park in the heart of Patagonia - Recognized as the “8th Wonder of the World” in a global poll of travelers



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 7.5 miles per day at elevations below 2,500' plus scenic overland travel on some dirt roads.

2026/27 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 a secluded lenga forest and explore Laguna Azul for scenic views. 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.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

<p>DAY 01</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>DAY 02</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>CostAustralis Hotel – 1 night</p>
<p>DAY 03</p>	<p>PUERTO NATALES / PAINE NATIONAL PARK After 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 <i>ovejeros</i> (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 <i>Torres</i>, or Towers are distinguished.</p> <p>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 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</p> <p>Hotel Las Torres Patagonia – 3 nights (B,BL,D)</p>
<p>DAY 04</p>	<p>PAINE NATIONAL PARK (Nordenskjöld Lake Hike) Our route this morning begins with a moderate hike from the hotel, passing a few small lakes before crossing a hanging bridge over the Arriero River. We pause to admire the deep blue Inge Lagoon, then skirt the foot of Mount Almirante Nieto (8,755') and continue along the base of the towering granite Paine peaks. The trail rolls along the northern shores of turquoise-colored Lake Nordenskjöld, threading through a thick, deep green treeline and brushy areas. We negotiate boggy terrain and tackle stream crossings, leaping from boulder to boulder as we ascend and descend through the foothills toward a lookout point offering a glimpse of the impressive Paine Horns—a perfect spot to break for lunch.</p> <p>The park is home to 25 recorded species of mammals, including the huemul—a type of deer found only in Chile—and the elusive puma, both occasionally spotted. In December and January, meadows burst with daisies and wildflowers. As we return to the hotel, watching the afternoon light and clouds play across the mountains, we begin to anticipate tomorrow's adventure. Dinner is</p>

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	<p>included at the Coirón Restaurant, which features exquisite Patagonian cuisine crafted with produce grown in its own organic greenhouse. Nordenskjold hiking distance: 8 miles/6 hours</p> <p>Hotel Las Torres Patagonia (B,L,D)</p>
<p>DAY 05</p>	<p>PAINE NATIONAL PARK (Lenga Forest & Laguna Azul hikes) In the morning, we hike part of the O Circuit along the foothills of Cerro Paine, heading toward a magical old-growth lenga forest. One of Patagonia’s iconic trees, <i>Nothofagus pumilio</i> thrives in regions with low temperatures. This woodland habitat supports a wide range of wildlife, and we have a good chance of spotting Magellanic woodpeckers, Austral parakeets, and Chilean flickers, among other forest birds. Though it's rare to encounter them during daylight hours, pumas are known to roam this forest. As we traverse the foothills of Cerro Paine and cross small streams, we arrive at a stunning valley that bursts into bloom with daisies during the spring. The hike concludes with a serene walk along the turquoise Paine River, where the striking contrast between forest and pampas unfolds before us. Along the way, the trail offers sweeping views of Azul Lagoon, Guido Mountain, and the Sierra Baguales Range on the eastern side of the Massif. We return to the hotel for a fresh and satisfying lunch, retracing our steps through this remarkable landscape.</p> <p>This afternoon, we set out with your private driver and guide to hike along the tranquil shores of Laguna Azul, soaking in scenic vistas of the Paine Towers. Along the way, we stop at Paine Waterfall for photo opportunities. Laguna Azul holds special historical significance—it was here that Lady Florence Dixie, the intrepid British traveler and writer of the Victorian era, first laid eyes on the Torres del Paine. Considered the park’s first tourist, she chronicled her experience in her 1880 book <i>Across Patagonia</i>. Later, we return to the comforts of the hotel, located beside one of the only working ranches within the park's limits. After a day of hiking and exploration, unwind with a drink in the bar or lounge—or treat yourself to a well-deserved massage in the spa. Hiking distance: 6.5 miles/4.5 hours</p> <p>Hotel Las Torres Patagonia (B,L,D)</p>
<p>DAY 06</p>	<p>PAINE NATIONAL PARK (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.</p> <p>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 mountainside add to this alluring outing. This area is also excellent for photography and for watching 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 Hotel Rio Serrano, a comfortable lodge situated at an elevation of 435 ft. Its modern design is accented with rustic features, and the superb restaurant boasts an excellent wine bar. Hiking distance: 7 miles/4 hours</p> <p>Hotel Rio Serrano – 3 nights (B,BL,D)</p>

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DAY 07	<p>PAINE NATIONAL PARK (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 our gear for the next day's long and scenic hike. This evening, we enjoy a congenial dinner at the hotel. Pingo Valley hiking distance: 7 miles/3.5 hours. Driving distance: 72 miles or 3 hours.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hotel Rio Serrano (B,L,D)</p>
DAY 08	<p>PAINE NATIONAL PARK (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 <i>Calceolaria</i>. 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.</p> <p>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 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. French Valley hiking distance: 11 miles/8 hours.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hotel Rio Serrano (B,BL,D)</p>
DAY 09	<p>PAINE 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 <i>chulengos</i> 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,BL)</p>
DAY 10	<p>SANTIAGO / HOME Arrive in your gateway city this morning to clear customs and make onwards connections home.</p>

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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.

The Paine Park Lodge Adventure is 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 Pehóé Lake catamaran's seasonal schedule. On DAY 07 the Pingo River Valley hike may be substituted for 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. If you prefer to coincide with the itinerary indicated above for DAYS 6 & 8, departures should be from November 11, 2026 to March 08, 2027.

Due to seasonal restrictions, instead of the Hotel Las Torres Patagonia or Rio Serrano at Paine we may stay at the comfortable and nearby Pampa Lodge or at the cozy Patagonia Camp. 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.

2026 LAND COST:

4-5 participants:	from \$7,700 p.p.d.
6-9 participants:	from \$7,000 p.p.d.
10-12 participants:	from \$6,500 p.p.d.
Single Supplement:	from \$1,800

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

Note: 2026 Land Costs are valid for departures through March 2027.
Holiday travel dates could have a Land Cost surcharge of 10-20%.

FLIGHTS:

International and in-country airfare is not included in the land cost. You can arrange any of the flights yourself or redeem award travel directly through your airline program. Tickets should only be purchased after Southwind advises that your trip is confirmed. Southwind can help coordinate all your flights (or just the in-country flights) with our ticketing partner to match your tour itinerary. You'll benefit from having a personal agent to arrange seats/cabin preference, monitor schedule changes and work directly with the airline on your behalf, if adjustments are needed after ticketing. Airlines request that your tickets match your full name in your passport (including middle name if shown). If connecting, a 2-hour minimum buffer is important between flights. Round-trip **international** air from US gateway cities is approx. \$900-1,100/person. During peak dates (Dec 15-Jan 15) higher fares may apply.

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Carriers offering non-stop service from US gateways include; **American** (Dallas, Miami), **United** (Houston), **Delta** (Atlanta) and **LATAM** (LAX, JFK & Miami). **In-country** fares with Latam are approx. \$300-\$450/person for Santiago-Puerto Natales-Santiago. Latam has a partnership with Delta to redeem or accrue miles. Be advised that it may be necessary to arrive in Santiago a day prior depending on local flight schedules.

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 Patagonia and Santiago (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 8 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 Specialist for suggestions and a price quote.

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 [Chile Extend Your Trip](#).

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 custom 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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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. Having coverage provides peace of mind and is important in case of unexpected trip cancellation due to illness or health/medical condition/injury requiring medical treatment by a physician. Other benefits can include tour delay/interruption from flight issues, weather events, strikes, medical quarantine or emergency accident/illness with evacuation to nearest treatment by US standards. Southwind recommends the **Worldwide Trip Protector Deluxe** from [Travel Insured International](#). We can provide an eQuote on request tailored to your trip or a policy can be purchased directly from TII online or by phone at 800-243-3174. Coverage can also be done through any provider of your choice.

NEXT STEPS: Please contact Southwind to speak with a personal Travel Advisor to help fine tune your travel plans and to receive a custom itinerary with a land cost quote based on your travel dates. You can reach us by filling out our [Private Trip Request form](#), by email at info@southwindadventures.com, by phone at 800-377-9463 or by text to 303-972-0701.

Reservations can be made up to 60 days before departure, provided tour services and hotels are available. Due to the popularity of Patagonia, we recommend making reservations at least 4-5 months in advance for non-holiday or about 1 year prior for holiday departures. Once your trip is confirmed to operate, you will receive pre-departure planning materials, flight booking assistance and advice to help prepare for your exciting South America vacation.

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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