

CHILE
PATAGONIA

PUMA PHOTO TOUR AT TORRES DEL PAINE



2026 ITINERARY



Wild Encounters: A Unique Photo Puma Expedition in Torres del Paine

Embark on a unique photographic experience in Torres del Paine National Park during the winter season. This time of year, offers optimal conditions for capturing spectacular images of pumas, thanks to the soft light and tranquility of the surroundings. With fewer visitors in the observation areas, the chances of sightings increase, allowing you to photograph these majestic felines without the interruption of crowds or vehicles constantly passing through the areas where more sightings are projected. Although the days are shorter in winter, the quality of the light is unparalleled. The low sun and the higher probability of cloud presence create a diffused lighting that is perfect for obtaining well-balanced images. Unlike other times of the year, where intense light can make capturing good photographs difficult, winter provides an ideal environment for nature photography. Additionally, during this season, the cold conditions generally cause pumas to exhibit a denser coat, making them stand out even more in images. They are also more active, as they follow the guanacos, their main food source, which move to lower areas of the park in search of food. This offers you more opportunities to document fascinating behaviors and action-packed scenes.

DAY 1 Transfer-in Punta Arenas

On this day, we will welcome you to the city of Punta Arenas, located at the southernmost tip of the continent. We will greet you at Presidente Carlos Ibáñez International Airport and transfer you to your hotel for a well-deserved rest.

Overnight Punta Arenas – Almasur or similar



DAY 2 Journey to Puerto Natales and Coastal Birding

After breakfast, we will depart for the scenic town of Puerto Natales, located approximately 240 km from El Calafate—a journey of about 3.5 hours. This charming Patagonian city, nestled along the shores of the Última Esperanza Sound, will serve as our base for the next few days of exploration and wildlife encounters. Upon arrival, we'll have time to stretch our legs and enjoy a relaxed walk along the coastal promenade, where the dramatic landscape is complemented by excellent birding opportunities. Species such as the Chilean Flamingo, Black-necked Swan, Coscoroba Swan, Crested Duck, and Imperial Cormorant are often seen here, set against the striking backdrop of fjords and snow-capped peaks.

Later in the afternoon, we'll check into our hotel, settle in, and gather for a casual orientation. This will be a great opportunity to meet the rest of the group and go over the exciting plans for the days ahead.

Overnight in Perto Natales – Hotel Martin Gusinde or similar (B/L/-)

DAY 3-4-5 Puma Photo Expedition in Torres del Paine

Prepare for three unforgettable days immersed in one of Patagonia's most iconic landscapes: Torres del Paine National Park, where we'll set out in search of the elusive Puma concolor.

Each morning, we'll depart from Puerto Natales well before sunrise, accompanied by expert local trackers who know the park intimately. Arriving early not only increases our chances of spotting pumas in action, but also allows us to witness the spectacular dawn light—a palette of soft pinks, fiery oranges, and deep purples washing over the snow-dusted peaks.

Our goal is simple but thrilling: to photograph wild pumas in their natural habitat. When we find them, we'll stay quietly with them as long as conditions allow, documenting each behavior, expression, and interaction. This is not a rushed experience—we give each encounter the time it deserves, always respecting the space and rhythm of the animals.

During these winter days, we'll maximize our field time, exploring prime observation areas across the park by private 4x4 vehicles. The low tourist activity during this season allows for a quiet, immersive experience, where wildlife feels close and the landscapes remain undisturbed.



We'll return to Puerto Natales by sunset each evening, filled with stories, images, and awe. A warm meal and a glass of wine await at our comfortable hotel, offering the perfect way to wind down and reflect on the day's sightings.

Beyond pumas, this region is teeming with life and photographic opportunities: guanacos, eagles, hawks, foxes, and breathtaking scenery at every turn. Every day holds the potential for new surprises and unforgettable encounters.

Overnight in Puerto Natales – Hotel Martin Gusinde or similar (B/L/-).

DAY 6 Glacial Waters & Hidden Species at Lago Grey

Today, we will embark on an unforgettable adventure from Puerto Natales to the spectacular Grey Lake in the heart of Torres del Paine National Park. We depart early, as the dawn light begins to paint the Patagonian sky. We head towards the heart of Torres del Paine National Park, where majestic landscapes are reflected in the calm waters of several lakes along the way, such as Lake Toro. This magical moment is postcard - worthy, creating a perfect start to our exciting day. Here, we also begin our search for the iconic Magellanic Woodpecker (*Campephilus magellanicus*). With its striking colors and distinctive drumming, finding it will be an exciting experience. We will also be on the lookout for the Southern Pygmy Owl and other fascinating bird species that inhabit this winter environment. Every moment of this journey is designed to immerse you in the beauty and excitement of the Patagonian winter. From the dazzling landscapes to encounters with diverse wildlife, this adventure promises to be an unparalleled experience. Upon arrival at the Grey Hotel, you can enjoy the wonderful views of the lake and later savor a delicious dinner at the hotel.

Overnight in Hotel Lago Gray, (B/L/-).



DAY 7 The final search: Puma Tracking & Lago Grey

After breakfast, we begin our journey across the border into Chile, traveling by comfortable long-distance bus to the quaint port town of Puerto Natales (approx. 5.5 hours). Along the way, enjoy sweeping views of the southern Patagonian steppe, with the Andes marking the boundary between two nations and two ecosystems.

Upon arrival, we'll check into our hotel and stretch our legs with a relaxing walk along the Seno Última Esperanza shoreline, where the still waters and distant peaks offer a tranquil end to the day.

Overnight in Puerto Natales – Hotel Martin Gusinde or similar, (B/L/-).

DAY 8 Transfer to Punta Arenas Airport

After several unforgettable days filled with remarkable sightings, shared stories, and stunning photographs, it's time to say see you soon—not goodbye. We trust that this is only the beginning of future adventures together.

Following a restful night in Puerto Natales and a hearty breakfast, we'll begin our journey south toward Punta Arenas, where you'll be transferred to Presidente Carlos Ibáñez del Campo International Airport in time for your departing flight.

As we leave behind the dramatic landscapes of Patagonia, we carry with us not only incredible images but also deep memories of the wildlife, the silence of the steppe, and the magic of each puma encounter.

Private transportation to Punta Arenas Airport, (B/-/-).



PRICING PER PERSON IN DOUBLE OCCUPATION ROOM

USD \$5380

Single room supplement USD \$480

WHATS'S INCLUDED

- Private guide and puma tracker
- Private transportation
- All meals, excursions, and activities listed in the itinerary B= breakfast ; L= lunch ; D= dinner
- Drinking water available throughout the tour
- Lodging as described in the itinerary in double occupation room
- Entrance fees to national park and activities listed in the itinerary

NOT INCLUDED

- Tips and gratuities
- Personal expenses
- Alcoholic and additional beverages
- Travel insurance
- International airfare
- Any items not explicitly mentioned above
- Dinners

TOUR SUMMARY

- **Group size: 5 participants + TL + Puma tracker Guide**
- **Length: 8 days**
- **Start / End city: Punta Arenas, Presidente Carlos Ibáñez International Airport**
- **Physical difficulty: moderate**
- **Focus: Photography**

CLIMATE

Patagonia is famous for its rapidly changing and often unpredictable weather. During the winter season—when this tour takes place—temperatures frequently drop below 0°C (32°F), especially in the early morning and evening hours. While the cold is a defining feature of the season, one advantage is that the wind, which can be relentless in other months, tends to be milder in winter. Despite the low temperatures, you'll be well cared for: all accommodations and vehicles are equipped with reliable heating to ensure your comfort throughout the journey.

To make the most of your experience, dressing in layers is essential. We recommend a high-quality thermal base layer, a second insulating layer, thermal socks, gloves, a warm hat or beanie, a windproof/waterproof outer shell, and cold-weather jackets. Proper gear will not only protect you from the elements but also allow you to enjoy your time in the field without discomfort.

Winter in Patagonia offers unique photographic opportunities and fewer crowds—just be sure to come prepared for nature in its most raw and beautiful form.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION & PACKING LIST FOR PATAGONIA

To fully enjoy your Patagonian adventure, it's important to be well-prepared. Below are key items and recommendations that will help ensure a safe, comfortable, and unforgettable experience in the wild:

Money & Practical Tips

- Bring extra cash for tips, personal expenses, snacks, souvenirs, or extra meals.
- The local currency is the Chilean peso (CLP). We recommend exchanging approximately USD \$300 (or the equivalent in your local currency) either at the airport or in Punta Arenas.
- Currency exchange: If your arrival time allows, we can suggest a reliable exchange office near your hotel in Punta Arenas.
- Credit cards are widely accepted in most shops and restaurants.
- Tipping: You can tip your guides, driver, and puma trackers in U.S. dollars if preferred.



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Gear & Clothing Checklist

Patagonia's spring climate is famously variable—you may encounter sun, rain, wind, and snow all in one day. Packing the right gear is essential for your comfort and safety.

- Sunscreen – UV rays can be strong, even on overcast days.
- Warm hat or beanie – Keeps you warm during chilly mornings and windy treks.
- Flashlight or headlamp – Handy for early outings.
- Reusable water bottle – Stay hydrated during excursions.
- Trekking shoes – Choose high-quality, highly water-resistant footwear to prevent snow or water from seeping in.
- Gaiters (recommended) – Great for extra leg protection in case of heavy snow and cold, wet terrain.

Clothing for Variable Weather

Patagonian weather can be very cold with temperatures sometimes dropping below freezing, especially in the early morning or late evening.

The key is to dress in warm, adaptable layers, such as:

- Thermal base layers (top and bottom)
- Thermal socks
- Gloves and a warm hat
- Insulated jackets
- Waterproof and windproof outerwear



Fortunately, all vehicles and accommodations used during the tour are equipped with heating to keep you comfortable between outings.

With the right preparation and gear, you'll be ready to enjoy every moment of this extraordinary experience in one of the most beautiful and remote corners of the planet.

TIME ZONE

UTC/GMT -3 hours

VISA

Temporary stay is the permit granted to foreign individuals who enter the country for tourism, business, or other reasons for a limited time, without the intention to reside or settle. The permit authorizes a stay of 90 days in the country, which can be extended for an additional 90 days only once. Individuals must prove that they have sufficient financial means to support their stay in the country.

- Passport valid for at least **6 months** from the date of entry.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Vaccinations

There are no mandatory vaccinations required to enter Chile for most travelers, including those from the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

- While there are no tropical diseases of concern in Patagonia, it's always good to be up-to-date on routine vaccines (e.g., tetanus, measles, hepatitis A).



Travel & Medical Insurance

We strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel and medical insurance for the duration of your trip. Torres del Paine is a remote wilderness area where medical services are limited and evacuations can be costly.

- Your insurance should cover outdoor activities such as hiking, wildlife tracking, and photography in rugged terrain.

Additional Tips

- Bring personal medications in sufficient quantity for the whole trip, along with a copy of any prescriptions.
- Sunscreen and lip balm with UV protection are essential due to UV exposure, even on cloudy days.
- Drink plenty of water and stay hydrated, especially during full-day outdoor excursions.
- Follow your guide's instructions and always respect wildlife safety distances—your safety and the wellbeing of the animals depend on it.

CUSTOMIZED TOUR

Design Your Own Adventure – And Photograph South America's Two Iconic Big Cats

Are you looking for a travel experience that's fully tailored to your interests, pace, and travel companions? Let us help you design a custom journey that fits your vision—whether that means adjusting the pace, adding extra destinations, or traveling privately with friends, family, or a photography group.

Beyond exploring the wild beauty of Patagonia, we also offer extensions to other spectacular locations, such as El Calafate and El Chaltén in Argentina. But for those seeking a truly once-in-a-lifetime wildlife photography experience, we can extend your adventure to the Pantanal in Brazil.

By combining Patagonia and the Pantanal, you'll have the rare opportunity to photograph both the puma and the jaguar—the two most powerful wild cats in South America—in a single journey. This is the ultimate experience for wildlife lovers and photographers alike.

Let us craft a personalized itinerary that brings your dream trip to life, with every detail centered on your preferences.





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