



WELCOME TO THE FUTURE
PATAGONIA
NATIONAL PARK

AYSÉN REGION, CHILE





Welcome to the Heart of Patagonia

“For those of us that grew up going out into the wilds of the world...we got into our souls a sense of beauty.” –DOUG TOMPKINS

Patagonia Park is a gem that shines in one of the most wild, untamed parts of the world. When we set out, our goal was to create a national park with world-class scenery and wildlife. We envisioned an exceptional park where visitors would experience untrammelled nature, and that would contribute to a vibrant local economy. That vision is becoming reality here in the Chacabuco Valley.

In 2004, our nonprofit, Conservacion Patagonica (CP), purchased the 170,500-acre Estancia Valle Chacabuco. Located in a biologically critical area of Aysén, Chile, this former sheep and cattle ranch, one of the region's largest, was badly overgrazed. We launched an ambitious grassland recovery effort.

Since that initial purchase we have acquired several smaller tracts, expanding CP's holdings to nearly 200,000 acres, which are contiguous with existing public land. Our intention is to donate all of

Conservacion Patagonica's property to the Chilean national park system. This privately assembled conservation land (and accompanying public-access infrastructure) when combined with the Jeinemeni and Tamango National Reserves will form the future Patagonia National Park—a roughly 722,000-acre protected area that will help grow the Aysén Region's adventure tourism economy.

We love national parks for their high level of ecological protection, cultural value, and permanence, and look forward to the day when Patagonia Park expands Chile's outstanding national park system. In the meantime, the privately managed Patagonia Park is open to visitors from October through April. We hope you enjoy your stay and will become as inspired as we are by the natural beauty and ecotourism potential of this future national park.

KRISTINE TOMPKINS *Founder and President, Conservacion Patagonica*

WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD A COMMON GOAL Conservacion Patagonica is part of the Tompkins Conservation family of nonprofits, along with the Conservation Land Trust, Fundación Pumalín, and the Foundation for Deep Ecology. The Tompkins Conservation team has already helped create several new national and provincial parks in Chile and Argentina, securing millions of acres. For more than two decades we have worked to rewild degraded landscapes by reintroducing missing species, advanced ecological agriculture, supported local community development, and helped foster a culture of activism that inspires people to love and defend the wild.

Chacabuco Valley History

Enduring the Winds of Change

PREHISTORY Archaeological evidence suggests that prehistoric ancestors of the Tehuelche people moved through the Chacabuco Valley for thousands of years, using the east-west valley. One rock shelter in Patagonia Park, close to the Roballos mountain pass, shows evidence of occupation roughly 3,000 years ago, likely by hunter-gatherers who occupied the valley seasonally.



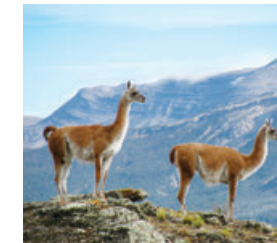
Traditional gaucho's stirrup



1990 Patricio Aylwin Azócar is elected president of Chile, ending Pinochet's 16-year military dictatorship and transitioning Chile back to democratic rule.



Tin cup artifact



HISTORICAL MILESTONES

1520 Ferdinand Magellan is the first European to set eyes on the future country of Chile, sparking three centuries of conquest and colonization by Spanish forces in the region. Magellan refers to the people he met in the south as "Patagones," (big feet) and the name "Patagonia" is born.

1818 Chile declares independence from Spain.

1889 German geographer Hans Steffen leads explorations with the Chilean navy in the Aysén region of Patagonia, including the Chacabuco Valley, to document the potential for development and exploration.

1904 With Steffen's promising report, the Baker Company begins large-scale sheep and cattle ranching in the Chacabuco Valley, led by Englishman Lucas Bridges. In **1915**, Bridges wrangles thousands of sheep from the Argentine steppe into the Chacabuco Valley.

1964 As part of broad-scale agricultural reform, the Chilean government reappropriates the Baker Company's land instead of renewing the lease. The company is liquidated and Chacabuco Valley parcels are redistributed to dozens of local families.

1974 Under military leader Augusto Pinochet, thousands of farmers are torn from lands granted under agrarian reform. Chacabuco Valley properties leased to local families are reclaimed by Pinochet's regime. In 1980, the estancia is sold to a Belgian family, the de Smets, who operate a 30,000-head sheep and cattle ranch for over two decades.

CONSERVACION PATAGONICA'S ROLE

1995 Conservationists Kristine and Douglas Tompkins visit the area for the first time and begin dreaming about how to permanently conserve the Chacabuco Valley.

2000 Kris Tompkins founds the nonprofit Conservacion Patagonica to create parklands, restore wildlife, and create economic opportunity in Patagonia.

2004 After two unprofitable decades of sheep ranching, the de Smet family sells the estancia. Conservacion Patagonica purchases the land to begin creating the future Patagonia National Park.

2005-2020 Conservacion Patagonica restores habitat, promotes wildlife recovery, and builds public-access infrastructure for Patagonia Park. By 2018, Conservacion Patagonica hopes to finalize an agreement with the Chilean government to donate its holdings to the Chilean national park system.

76° W

75° W

46° S

Big, Wild, Connected Conservation

Planning for Resilience in Patagonia

The name “Patagonia” evokes images of a wild, untamed place, but drawing the exact borders of Patagonia is a challenge. It is neither its own nation nor a specific province but in general has come to mean the region comprising all of southerly Chile and Argentina.

The Andes not only separate Chile and Argentina, but also create a stark climatic divide between the west and east. On the western (Chilean) side of the Cordillera, the wet climate supports one of the world’s few temperate rainforests. To the east, the much-drier Argentine Patagonia side is a broad plateau of arid and semi-arid grasslands, scoured by incessant winds.

The future Patagonia National Park lies in a unique area where the ecosystem characteristic of Argentine Patagonia extends into Chile, meeting the wetter forests. The Chacabuco Valley, heart of the park, is one of the few west-east valleys in the region, creating an ecologically rich transition zone between ecosystems.

Patagonia Park’s varying altitudes, habitat diversity, and size make it ideal for sustaining biodiversity in the face of climate change. In short, it’s a resilient landscape—and a priority for permanent protection as a national park.

ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE “The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions.”



NORTHERN PATAGONIAN ICE FIELD

Home to Chilean Patagonia’s highest peak (Monte San Valentin) and the headwaters of some major rivers like the Baker, the ice field is a vital freshwater source for the region.

1



THE CHACABUCO VALLEY

The Chacabuco Valley is one of the few east-west valleys in the region, creating an ecologically rich transition zone between ecosystems.

2



3

FOREST LANDSCAPE

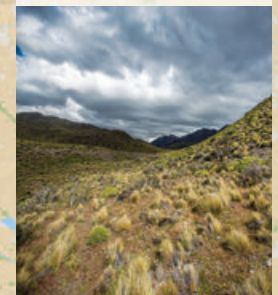
Southern beech forests are found in the wetter western area of the park.



4

STEPPE LANDSCAPE

The arid Patagonian steppe ecosystem lies on the eastern border of the park.



OCEAN

COASTAL EVERGREEN

PERI-GLACIAL

INLAND FOREST

SEMI-ARID/ARID STEPPE

A Vital North-South Linkage

Linking the Jeinemeni and Tamango Reserves

Patagonia Park currently includes roughly 200,000 acres of grassland, forest, and mountains surrounding the Chacabuco Valley. When joined with the Jeinemeni Reserve to the north and the Tamango Reserve to the south, the future national park will total approximately 722,000 acres.

For comparison, Yosemite National Park in California is just a bit larger. When it's established, Patagonia National Park will be one-and-a-half times the size of Torres del Paine National Park, the best known and most visited park in Chilean Patagonia.

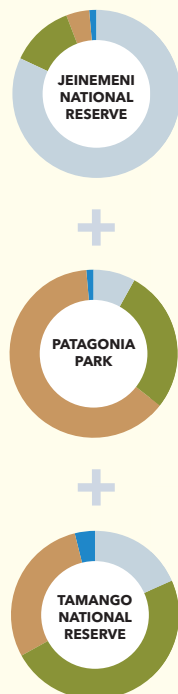
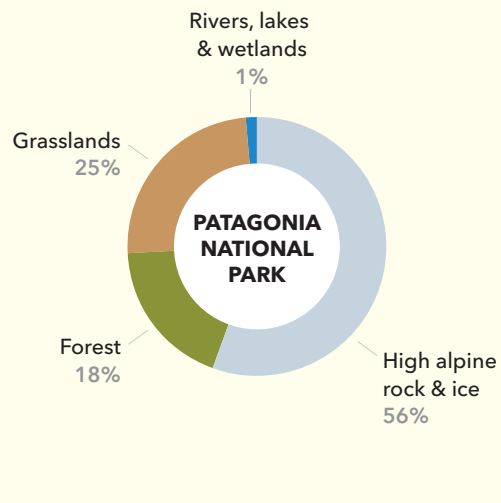
Now that most of the former ranch fencing has been removed, wildlife can travel freely across the landscape. Maintaining habitat connectivity is imperative to recovering and sustaining healthy wildlife populations, including that of the highly endangered huemul deer. Establishing a national park is the best way to guarantee permanent protection of the area's outstanding ecological and recreational values.

THE LINK-UP

Patagonia National Park will unite the Jeinemeni National Reserve to the north and the Tamango National Reserve to the south, maintaining vital habitat connectivity for wildlife movement.

MORE THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS

The Jeinemeni Reserve, Tamango Reserve, and Conservacion Patagonica's privately owned conservation lands each contribute distinct habitat types, making the future Patagonia National Park more diverse and ecologically resilient.



One of the World's Largest Grassland Restoration Projects

Rewilding an Ecosystem

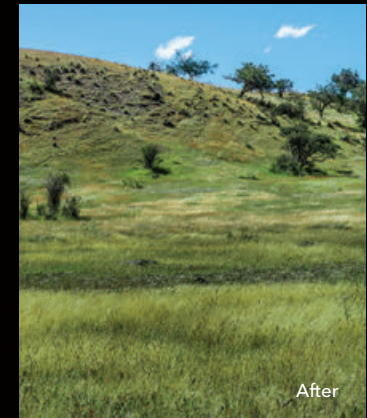
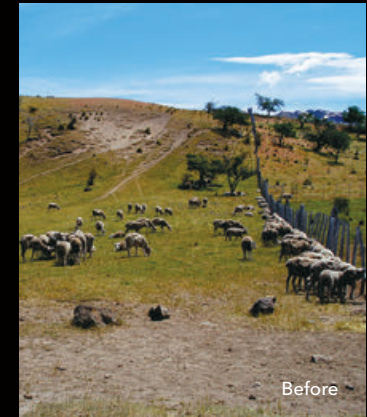
Relatively few large expanses of natural grasslands without livestock grazing remain. Grasslands are a highly imperiled ecosystem globally, and dramatically underrepresented in protected areas. While grasslands have less wildlife diversity compared to, say, tropical rainforests, they typically have more abundant wildlife. Grassland protection and recovery is an urgent conservation priority, and the work to restore grasslands

in the Chacabuco Valley is one of the most ambitious such efforts on Earth.

The recovering grasslands of Patagonia Park support expanding populations of guanacos—the region's iconic large mammal—as well culpeo foxes, armadillos, Andean condors, and pumas, the ecosystem's charismatic large carnivore. Through a captive breeding project, park biologists are helping grow the population of Darwin's rheas, the

large, native ostrich species endemic to Patagonia, which Charles Darwin first described in his *Voyage of the Beagle*.

With the Chacabuco River as its lifeblood, Patagonia Park's grasslands, along with forest, wetland, and alpine natural communities, are the biological heart of the region, supporting outstanding biodiversity.



HELPING NATURE HEAL

After the former estancia's livestock was sold, volunteers from around the globe helped remove more than 400 miles of ranch fencing. With erosion control, strategic reseeding of native plants, and time, the Chacabuco Valley's grasslands are experiencing an amazing (and faster than expected) recovery.

Flourishing Wildlife

What You May Encounter During Your Visit

With herds of guanacos gracing the grasslands, the endangered huemul a ghostly presence in the forest, and Andean condors—Earth’s largest flying bird—soaring overhead, Patagonia Park’s varied ecosystems and strict protection make it a haven for wildlife. Conservacion Patagonica’s rewilding team, as well as visiting biologists,

have made the Chacabuco Valley a center of scientific research with an immediate, practical purpose: to restore and protect the region’s native species.

Charismatic creatures like the puma may be a rare sight, but every visitor to the park will have ample wildlife-viewing opportunities. You

PUMAS live throughout the park but are experts at hiding in the day. Their main prey are guanacos and European hare, both of which are abundant in the valley.



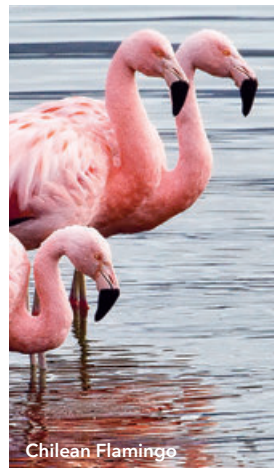
Puma

GUANACOS are prolific in the park and can be seen along the main road throughout the valley.



Guanaco

CHILEAN FLAMINGOS can be viewed on Laguna Seca.



Chilean Flamingo

may see nosy guanacos on the lodge lawn or pink Chilean flamingos bathing near the banks of Laguna Seca. Whether you are hiking the trails or gazing out your lodge room window, experiencing the abundant wildlife is sure to be a memorable part of any visit to Patagonia Park.

CULPEO FOXES and kits can be found darting through the grasslands, hunting small rodents or eating *calafate* berries.



Culpeo Fox

HAIRY ARMADILLOS can often be seen along the main road, so drive carefully!



Hairy Armadillo

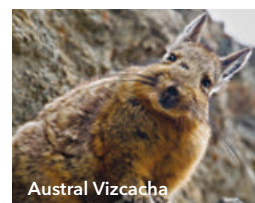
PAMPAS CATS are very elusive; only a few sightings have been recorded in the park.



Pampas Cat



Darwin's Rhea



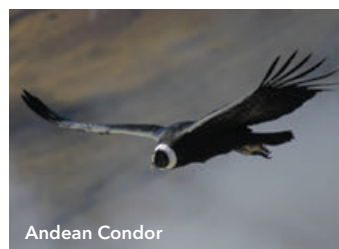
Austral Vizcacha

AUSTRAL VIZCACHAS often stay hidden among rocky outcrops, but can sometimes be spotted sunning themselves in the cliffs along the main park road to Argentina (the X-83).



Huemul Deer

HUEMUL DEER occupy habitat along Lago Cochrane, near the Tamango Reserve. Lucky visitors to the Lago Chico trail may spot one of these solitary forest dwellers.



Andean Condor

ANDEAN CONDORS often can be spotted while hiking along the Lagunas Altas Trail, or as they feed on carcasses in other parts of the park.

OTHER NOTABLE SPECIES IN THE PARK

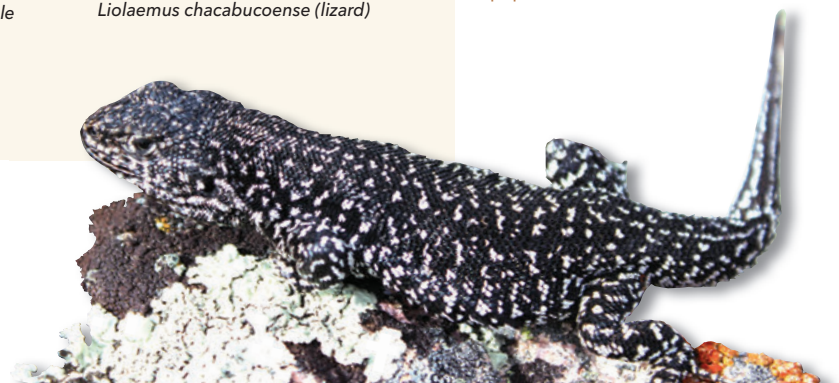
BIRDS

Crested caracara
Black-chested buzzard-eagle
Andean tapaculo
Chilean hawk
Chilean flicker
Long-tailed meadowlark


AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES

Large four-eyed frog
Liolaemus chacabucoense (lizard)

Liolaemus chacabucoense (an endemic lizard) is frequently spotted scrambling over rock outcroppings.



DARWIN'S RHEAS live in the eastern side of the valley; the park’s rhea breeding center is helping grow their population.

A photograph of two pumas resting on a rocky surface. The puma in the foreground is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The puma in the background is looking off to the right. The lighting is natural, highlighting the texture of their fur and the roughness of the rocks.

“Don’t be disappointed
if you didn’t see us,
we probably saw you.”

PUMAS are a “keystone species,” vitally important to ecosystem health. Having the largest distribution of all wild terrestrial mammals in the Western Hemisphere, before their persecution by humans pumas occupied habitat across the Americas from the Canadian Yukon to the southern Andes of South America.

Native Plant Species

Please enjoy and leave in place!

Patagonia Park is home to numerous native plant species, many of which are slowly growing in number through restoration efforts. *The best thing you can do when you see a native plant is to enjoy it where it grows and leave it to thrive on its own.*

FOREST SPECIES



Prickly Heath (Chaura)



Antarctic Beech (Nirre)



Chilco (Chilco)



Coihue (Coihue)



Lenga (Lenga)

STEPPE SPECIES



Neneo



Calafate (Calafate)

In summer the spikey calafate bush bears a tart blue fruit, which is a favorite for animals and humans alike. A favorite legend says that if you eat a calafate berry, you are destined to return to Patagonia.



Orchid



Zarzaparrilla (Zarzaparrilla)



Orocoipo (Orocoipo)



Chilean Firetree (Notro o Ciruelillo)



Bunchgrasses (Coiron)

OTHER STEPPE PLANTS INCLUDE

Neneo Macho
Chapel
Chacay

Exotic Plant Species

If you see these, pull them out!

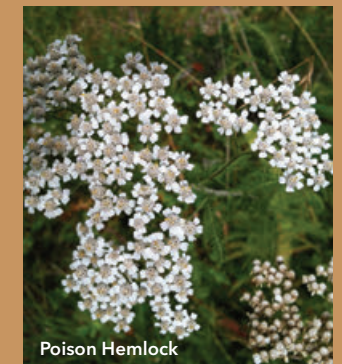
Thanks to park volunteers, much progress has been made toward removing and controlling nonnative plants that were introduced through livestock grazing and human development. Feel free to yank out invasive plants such as those described below, without spreading more seeds.

MUSK THISTLE (Spanish name is "cardo"), *Carduus nutans*: Stiff, sharp thistle with a purple flower. Can be found along the road and on hillsides. **To remove:** Pull out by the root, then discard the plant.

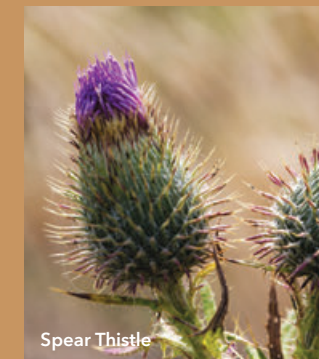
POISON HEMLOCK (Spanish name is "cicuta"), *Conium maculatum*: Tall weed (average 2½ meters) with white flowers, often found along the river and near the road.



Musk Thistle



Poison Hemlock



Spear Thistle



Common Mullein

SPEAR THISTLE (Spanish name is "cardo negro"), *Cirsium vulgare*: Tall thistle with spine-tipped wings along its length and a purple flower.

COMMON MULLEIN (Spanish name is "hierba del paño"), *Verbascum thapsus*: Small yellow flowers grouped together atop a tall rosette of soft leaves. Located along the X-83 road throughout the park.

Fire—A Constant Threat

Please help prevent accidental wildfire!

Periodic wildfires, which are beneficial in many ecosystems, do not occur naturally in Patagonia, where there is almost no lightning. Human-caused fires can be extremely harmful to this landscape: degrading habitat, displacing wildlife, and needlessly threatening park infrastructure and the people who will fight any accidental conflagration. Great care must be taken to prevent such ignitions. Here are some guidelines that will help you enjoy your stay while protecting the park and its inhabitants, human and wild.

- **NO CAMPFIRES ALLOWED** anywhere in the park. Please follow these guidelines throughout the park, as they are in place for your safety.
- Lanterns, camp stoves, and matches can ignite a fire when you least expect it. Exercise care when using them, avoid spilling flammable liquids, and use and dispose of matches properly.
- Avoid camping in areas highly prone to fire. A combination of high winds, low humidity, and dry grasses are the perfect ingredients for an accidental fire.
- Smoking is not allowed anywhere in the park. Please refrain from smoking and especially from tossing anything recently lit out of a vehicle.
- **BE VIGILANT:** Please report any fires to park personnel as quickly as possible.

GUANACO STANDING in an area burned in 2014.



HIGH RISK OF FIRE
The May 2014 fire affected approximately 7,400 acres.



CONFLAGRATION

In 2014, an accidental fire affected more than 7,400 acres in the Chacabuco Valley. The likely origin of the massive blaze was a candle lit at the site of a small altar on the side of the road. The fire swept over dry grassland, consumed several blocks of forest, and threatened the park headquarters. It took five days of round-the-clock fighting to get the fire under control. It will take several years for the grassland habitat to rebound, and perhaps decades for the affected forests to recover.

What to Do in the Park

Get Outside



Hiking, backpacking, wildlife watching, boating, mountain biking, and scenic drives are all permitted activities within Patagonia Park. (Other activities, including fishing, whitewater rafting, horseback riding, and guided trips are available outside of the park. Please check with the park office for recommendations.)



The austral parakeet is found on the southern tip of South America—further south than any other species of parrot.



MOUNTAIN BIKING Mountain biking is a great way to explore the park and cover more ground than you would by foot. The dirt-and-gravel Paso Roballos Road (X-83), the park's main artery, is perfect for exploring on two (sturdy) wheels. Biking is allowed only on existing roads but **coming in 2017**, the first two designated mountain biking trails will be added to Patagonia Park's trail system. (While the park doesn't rent bicycles, there are local tour operators that offer mountain bike adventures in the area.)



You will need your passport and vehicle registration papers if planning to cross the border into Argentina.



LA RUTA ESCÉNICA (THE SCENIC ROUTE) We're biased, of course, but think that a drive through Patagonia Park offers scenery as lovely as anyplace on Earth. Traverse the park by vehicle to enjoy the majesty and beauty of Chilean Patagonia, where you'll see the flamingo-filled waters of Laguna Seca, expansive views of snowcapped Cerro Kristine, and clay-red peaks adorned in glacial ice. The route starts at the western entrance of the park and continues to the eastern entrance at the border. The drive takes about an hour-and-a-half each way, but if you bring your passport and vehicle papers, you can explore the Argentina side of the mountains (including the new Patagonia National Park, Argentina) and make it a full-day trip. Do the drive on your own, or hire a Patagonia Park guide.

The Heart of the Park

Getting Oriented



THE LODGE

Following in the tradition of iconic national park accommodations from around the world, the Lodge offers a uniquely Patagonian experience.

THE RESTAURANT

The restaurant sits in the heart of the park headquarters, serving hearty fare largely sourced from on-site greenhouses and local livestock.

THE GARDEN

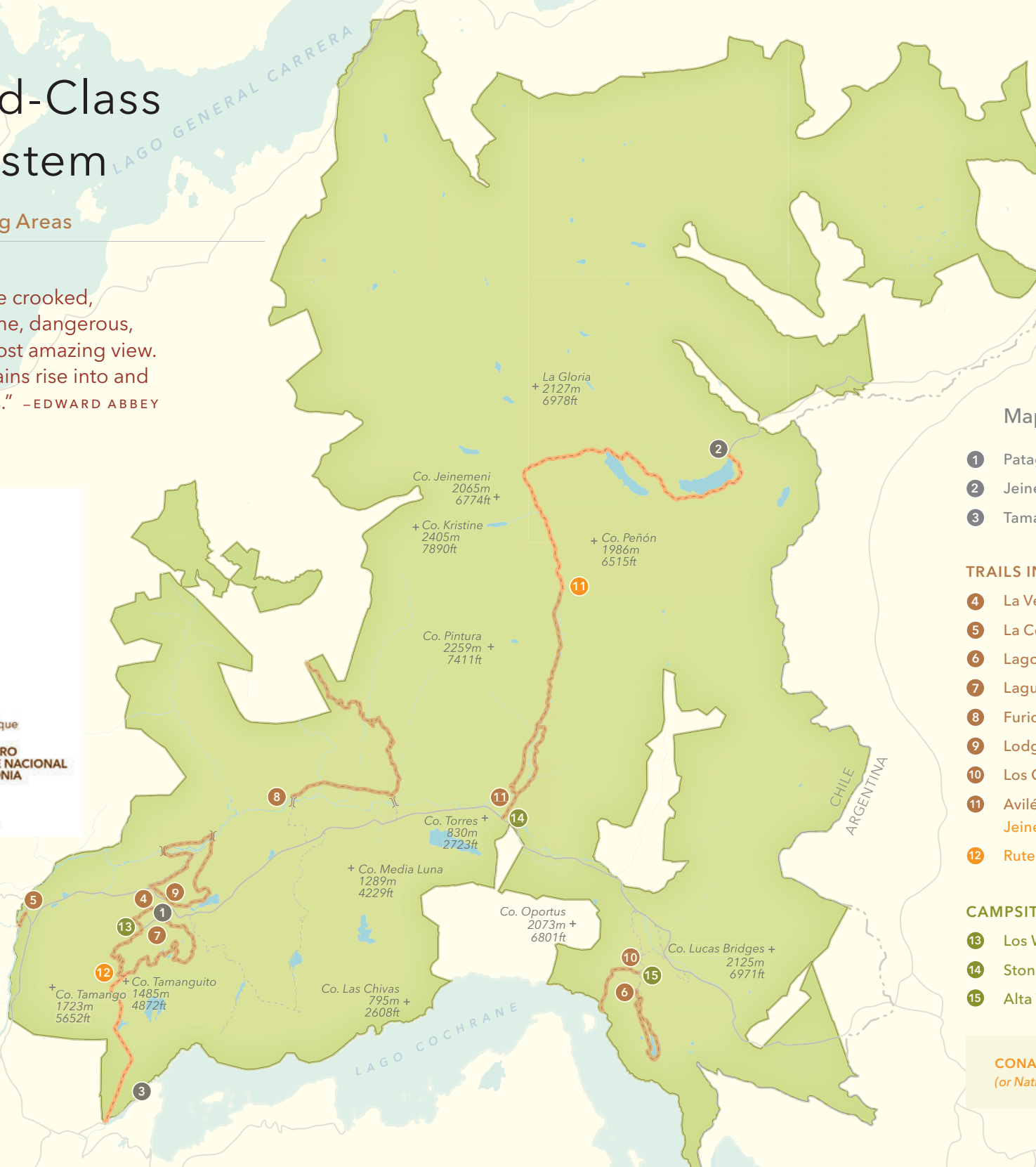
Dedicated gardeners (including volunteers) help supply a wide variety of organic vegetables, fruits, and herbs to the restaurant.



A World-Class Trail System

And Surrounding Areas

"May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds." -EDWARD ABBEY



Map Key

- 1 Patagonia Park
- 2 Jeinemeni National Reserve
- 3 Tamango National Reserve

TRAILS IN THE PARK

- 4 La Vega Trail
- 5 La Confluencia Trail
- 6 Lago Chico Loop
- 7 Lagunas Altas Trail
- 8 Furioso Trail
- 9 Lodge to Laguna Cisnes Trail
- 10 Los Gatos Trail
- 11 Avilés Loop Trail / 11 Avilés to Jeinemeni Trail (CONAF)
- 12 Rute de Huemul (CONAF)

CAMPSITES

- 13 Los West Winds Campground
- 14 Stone House Campground
- 15 Alta Valle Campground

CONAF Corporación Nacional Forestal
(or National Forest Corporation)

Hikes in the Park

Trail Descriptions



La Vega Trail

Level: Low difficulty

Time needed: Approx. 1 hour

Ascent: 333 m / 1093 ft

Distance: 7 km (4.5 miles)

For a pleasant stroll, head out to the La Vega Trail, which starts behind the Lodge. The trail winds through the valley before arriving at the West Winds Campground, the nearest campground to park headquarters. You'll pass the greenhouses and the historic Valle Chacabuco cemetery, which contains the graves of several past residents of the area. Return by the same trail or take the road that leads to the campground.

BRIDGE SAFETY Please note that only one person at a time is allowed on the hanging bridges throughout the park. These bridges have been built and tested by experts, but we ask that one hiker pass at a time. Please wait until the person in front of you has reached the other side before crossing.



La Confluencia

Level: Low difficulty

Time needed: Approx. 3 hours

Ascent: 140 m / 159 ft

Distance: 3 km (2 miles)

One of the area's most popular hikes—to the confluence of the Baker and Chacabuco Rivers—begins very close to the park's western entrance. Drive to the crossroads of the main park road and the Carretera Austral, find a spot to park, then head down to the nice beach at the confluence. There's a path that starts slightly north of the crossroads, but if you don't find it, you can just head down the hill. This is a great place to swim and relax.



 **Lago Chico Loop**

Level: Intermediate
Time needed: Approx. half day
Ascent: 180 m / 590 ft
Distance: 12 km (7.5 miles)

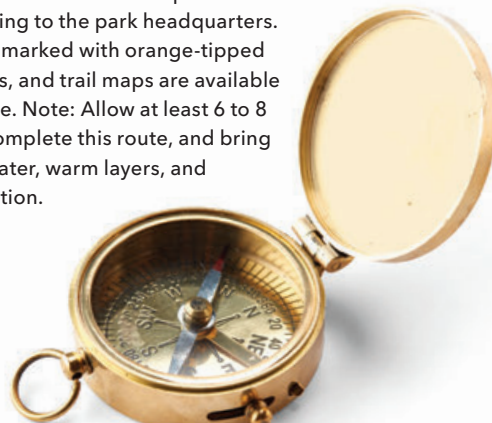
On the eastern sector of the Chacabuco Valley, the Lago Chico area has spectacular views of Lago Cochrane and Mt. San Lorenzo (3,706 meters), one of the highest peaks in Patagonia. Drive up the valley approximately 45 km (28 miles) until you reach the second road on the right (south) side of the road. Take this road up the hill to a parking area (under construction), approximately 7 km (4.5 miles) past the Alta Valle Campground. From there, head out on the 12-km (7.5-mile) loop trail around Lago Chico or enjoy a shorter stroll to a scenic overlook. Be sure to visit "Mirador Douglas Tompkins," a spectacular new lookout that offers breathtaking views of the lake and beyond.



 **Lagunas Altas Trail**

Level: Intermediate/advanced
Time needed: Approx. full day
Ascent: 1268 m / 4160 ft
Distance: 23 km (14 miles)

The 23-km (14-mile) Lagunas Altas Trail starts at the West Winds Campground, which is just a short walk (2 km/1.2 miles) from the lodge. The trail climbs up the hill, close to Mount Tamanguito, before winding around numerous alpine lakes and returning to the park headquarters. The trail is marked with orange-tipped rebar poles, and trail maps are available at the office. Note: Allow at least 6 to 8 hours to complete this route, and bring a picnic, water, warm layers, and sun protection.



 **Avilés Trail**

Level: Intermediate/advanced
Time needed: Approx. full day
Ascent: 635 m / 2083 ft
Distance: 16 km (10 miles)

This trail connects the Chacabuco Valley to the Jeinemeni Reserve to the north. Drive up the valley to the Stone House Campground (25 km/15.5 miles, about a half-hour drive). Park, and cross the Berkley Footbridge over the Chacabuco River, and look for the marked trail taking off behind the house. Walk up the valley to a hanging footbridge over the Avilés River, cross the river via the footbridge, and return on the other side, crossing the Avilés River close to the end of the hike.



 **Furioso Trail**

Level: Intermediate/advanced
Time needed: Full day
Ascent: 436 m / 1430 ft
Distance: 23 km (14 miles)

This trail in the northwestern section of the park invites hikers to explore the sweeping Furioso Plateau, starting on the winding riverbanks of the Chacabuco River. Four brand new footbridges divide the trail, and two separate trailheads off of the X-83 (the first in Cuadro las Vacas; the second in La Isla) allow you to adjust the length of your hike. The plateau is the optimal place for capturing photos of Cerro Kristine, one of the park's most photographed peaks.

 Easy  Intermediate  Intermediate/Advanced  Advanced



Avilés to Jeinemeni Multiple-Day Trek

Level: Advanced

Ascent: 1084 m / 3556 ft

Time needed: Approx. 4–6 days RT

Distance: 97 km (60 miles RT)

For those interested in backcountry adventures, the Avilés Valley trail continues on past the end of the loop, connecting into the Jeinemeni Mountains and eventually arriving in the town of Chile Chico. You can do the route one-way in 3–4 days to the Jeinemeni Reserve Ranger Station, or do a 4–5 day in-and-out to Lago Verde, returning to the Chacabuco Valley.

From the Jeinemeni Ranger Station to Chile Chico it is another 70 km (42 miles) along a dirt road. Allow extra time and food for this section as hitchhiking is the only current option and passing cars are few. This is a long hike, so we recommend starting early in the day. Do remember that in summer, due to glacial thaw, river flow increases in the afternoon, making crossing

more difficult. When traversing rivers in Jeinemeni, choose a crossing spot where the flow is most wide and shallow.

For more information, please visit the park's visitor center before departing. Once you enter the Jeinemeni Reserve, you will be under the jurisdiction of CONAF (Corporación Nacional Forestal). Please contact the reserve for trail information and regulations.

NOTE: *In case of emergency, it is always good to tell park staff when you are departing on a longer hike. Please be aware that once you leave Patagonia Park, the trails in Jeinemeni are not as well marked.*

SAFETY AND SOLITUDE: *Due to concerns about safety and sustaining a high-quality backcountry experience, we limit the number of people who can use the trail at one time. All overnight backpackers must check in at the park office before starting their journey.*

NO CAMPFIRE ALLOWED Fire is a serious threat to this dry, arid landscape where winds can pick up at any time. Due to the high risk, no campfires are allowed anywhere in the park, at any time of the year.



Suggested Itineraries

Three Nights: Hike the High Lakes

Day 1: Travel to the park

To reach Patagonia Park, arrive by air at the Balmaceda Airport, then enjoy one of South America's most spectacular road trips down the Carretera Austral (Southern Highway) by rental vehicle or bus. You'll pass through lush, temperate rainforests and see countless glaciated peaks as well as Lago General Carrera, the continent's second-largest lake. When you arrive at the Lodge, our team will welcome you with a quick orientation to the park. Walk around the park headquarters area, and, if you're up for it, take a quick stroll on the La Vega Trail (begins right behind the Lodge). Spy your first guanacos, the curious South American camelid that roams the grasslands. Enjoy a cocktail on the terrace at the Lodge followed by dinner at the Bar and Restaurant El Rincón Gaucho.

Day 2: Hike the Lagunas Altas Trail

After breakfast, challenge yourself on the spectacular 23-km (13.8-mile) Lagunas Altas day hike. Starting from the Lodge, you'll hike up toward the summit of Mount Tamanguito before winding around stunning alpine lakes with dramatic views of the valley. The first major trail we created, it was named one of "Patagonia's Best Five Treks" and continues to offer visitors an incredibly rewarding challenge. Once you return, savor a cocktail and curl up with a book before a delicious dinner at the restaurant.

Day 3: Tour the Chacabuco Valley and hike the Lago Chico Loop

Experience the transformation in ecosystems as you drive east to the border with Argentina. In less than two hours, you'll be looking east across the vast expanse of the Argentine Patagonian steppe. Along the way, stop to count flamingos, black-necked swans, and myriad other bird species that reside within the park. On your return, take a detour to hike the crowd-pleasing Lago Chico trail, a 12-km (7.5-mile) loop in the eastern sector of the park. You'll appreciate big views of Mount San Lorenzo, Patagonia's second-highest peak, and the massive Lago Cochrane. For those interested in a shorter hike, a 10-minute stroll from the parking lot brings you to an excellent lookout point over the lake. For dinner, gather around the *parilla* (grill) in the restaurant for a traditional *asado* (barbeque) and buffet alongside other guests.

Day 4: Depart Patagonia Park

Pack up and say goodbye to the park. Drive back to Balmaceda or continue on in your Patagonian travels to Torres del Paine, Los Glaciares, or other destinations.

Five Nights: ¡Patagonia Sin Represas! Ride the Río Baker

Do the three-nights itinerary, then add these:

Day 4: Float the Baker

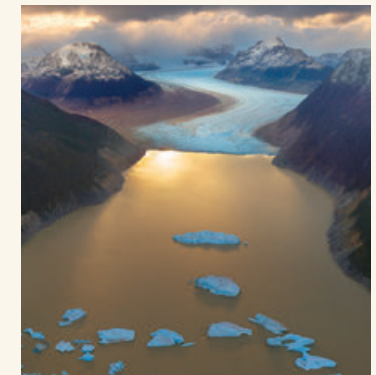
The Baker River is Chile's largest and one of the most spectacular. Draining from Lago General Carrera and the Northern Patagonian Ice Field, it forms the western border of the park before continuing on to the sea at Caleta Tortel. Spend the day floating this scenic section of the river with spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and glaciers. Learn about the controversy around proposed mega hydroelectric dams—the HidroAysén project—which we are delighted to report seems to be blocked for now. When you return, speak with park experts about the campaign to keep these rivers free, which has been the biggest environmental fight in Chile's history.

Day 5: Hike the Avilés Trail

Set out for a final day of hiking on one of the park's most remote and dramatic trails, the Avilés Valley Loop. After breakfast, head up the valley to the historic Stone House, site of the park's second public campground, to begin this 16-km (10-mile) loop trail up the Avilés Valley Canyon. Halfway through your hike, you'll cross the dramatic hanging footbridge—100 feet long and 100 feet high—that was constructed in 2012. Stop for a picnic lunch near the span and then continue on down the valley. In the evening, enjoy a farewell *asado*, a real Patagonian tradition.

Day 6: Depart Patagonia Park

Pack your belongings and say goodbye to the park. Drive back to Balmaceda, or continue onwards in your Patagonian travels to Torres del Paine, Los Glaciares, or other destinations.



THE ROUTE OF PARKS

As the Aysén Region's economy transforms from one based on resource extraction to one based on nature-friendly adventure tourism, the future Patagonia National Park portends to be a driver of local economic progress. Around the world, national parks have proven to be anchors of sustainable development. Chile's booming tourism sector is set to grow further as the Carretera Austral becomes internationally known as the "Route of Parks," a road through unparalleled beauty and portal to 17 current and proposed national parks.

Places to Stay in the Park

The Lodge at Valle Chacabuco

Inspired by iconic national park lodges from around the world, the Lodge at Valle Chacabuco, with its detailed woodwork and original photography of local culture and nature, reflects Patagonia's distinctive character. The central living and dining room are the ideal setting for resting after a day of travel, hiking, or exploration. Drink Chilean wine at the living room bar and enjoy views of looming Mount Tamanguito to the south through expansive paned windows. Nestle into overstuffed sofas, lounge by the fire, or venture to the patio by night to view an endless spread of stars.

Complementing its natural surroundings, the Lodge is built from stone quarried in the Chacabuco Valley. The rustic beams overhead and flooring below were crafted from recycled and refurbished wood, and the building's lush grounds welcome frequent and personal wildlife encounters. Patagonia Park's energy system is moving toward a goal of 100 percent renewable energy sources, a model for other parks around the world.

The Lodge is available for weddings, conferences, and other private events.

For prices and availability, please email reservas@vallechacabuco.cl

The Lodge is open from October 1 through April 30; closed from May through September.



NATURALLY INSPIRED

Fitting modestly within the landscape and reflecting a local style were both critical considerations when the Lodge, and other park buildings, were developed. All have been designed and constructed to withstand the high winds and severe climate of the region. Because the park's physical spaces reinforce an environmental ethos, the Lodge was made using local materials whenever possible. A small stone quarry—operated by the park within the Chacabuco Valley—provided the rock for the exterior of all of the park headquarters buildings, and the interior beams and woodwork were milled from recycled wood. Copper roofs, made from one of Chile's major resources, ensure durability.



West Winds Campground

The gently rolling lawns of West Winds are a favorite for local guanaco herds, which spend hot days near the creek or under the shade of tall poplar trees. Located three kilometers from the park headquarters, the campground is car-accessible via a gravel road (4x4 vehicle recommended). The campground is also accessible by the La Vega Trail, which connects the campground to the headquarters (about a 30-minute walk).

The campground has full bathrooms that include showers, flushing toilets, and sinks. Eight cook shelters offer visitors a protected space to eat and relax, regardless of weather. The campground accommodates up to 60 tents. Although solar hot water is available for much of the year, the system has limited capacity, so we cannot guarantee a hot shower.

REGISTER AND PAY for campsites at the park office. All campsites are first come first serve. We do not take reservations in advance.



Stone House Campground

Smaller than the West Winds Campground, the Stone House is a 45-minute drive from the Lodge and main office, 25 km (15.5 miles) into the valley down the park's main road (X-83). Surrounded by waving poplars, the campground's seven covered *quinchos* (cook shelters) protect campers from the mid-valley winds. Located at the confluence of the Avilés and Chacabuco rivers, the Stone House Campground serves as a departure point for explorations to the Avilés Valley and Jeinemeni Reserve.

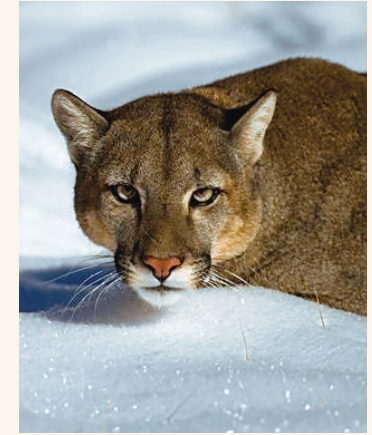


A nearby outlook a short walk from the Alto Valle Campground.

Alto Valle Campground

Conveniently located near the base of the popular Lago Chico Trail on the far eastern side of the park, the Alto Valle campground is just a short drive from Paso Roballos and the border of Argentina. It contains eight cook shelters, bathrooms, and showers, and welcomes visitors from around the world to spectacular views of Lago Cochrane and the snow-covered peaks of San Lorenzo. From the administration building, follow the X-83 road east into the valley for approximately 45 km (28 miles) until you reach the second road on the right (south) side of the road. Take this road up the hill, and the campground is a few minutes up the road.

Chloraea magellanica, a highly textured and boldly patterned Chilean orchid that blooms in the spring.



IF YOU ENCOUNTER A PUMA

Typically solitary and shy of humans, pumas are infrequently seen, and only exceedingly rarely a threat to people. Visitors to Patagonia Park are highly unlikely to encounter the area's largest cat, but if you do, enjoy the sight, stay calm, and make yourself look as large as possible. Back up slowly, keeping your eye on the puma at all times. Make sure that the animal doesn't feel cornered, giving it a chance to escape. (And if hiking in cat country makes you nervous, consider traveling with companions.)

NO FIRES IN CAMPGROUNDS

No campfires are allowed anywhere in the park, at any time of the year.



Enjoy Simple Pleasures During Your Stay

El Rincón Gaucho Bar, Restaurant, and Garden



We look forward to welcoming you to the El Rincón Gaucho Bar and Restaurant. Located in the heart of the park headquarters, it is designed with the same elegant detail as the Lodge. Loft ceilings made of recycled wood beams frame a perfect view of the valley's grassland and surrounding peaks.

Lodge meals are mostly sourced from our on-site greenhouses and from the local livestock. Lunch and dinner are available for all park visitors at El Rincón Gaucho Bar and Restaurant from October 1 through April 30.

The breakfast buffet includes toast, eggs, yogurt, cereals, fresh fruit, ham, cheese, jams, honey, juice, coffee, and

tea. Picnic lunches of assorted sandwiches, fruit, homemade cookies, and juices are available for guests who wish to explore the park during the day. Dinners vary depending on seasonal availability, but generally include a salad, a main course, and dessert. On occasion, we'll hold traditional Patagonian *asados* (barbeques) for our guests and staff. Please note that we are happy to accommodate special dietary concerns with advance notice.

The traditional Patagonian asado is the prime summer event.



PUMA VERDE HANDCRAFT STORE

Located in the lobby of Restaurante El Rincón Gaucho, the store offers a helpful array of field books and guides, as well as handmade gifts from some of the best craftspeople in Chile, including honey, wool, wooden crafts, tanned hides, horsehair handcrafts, and souvenirs.

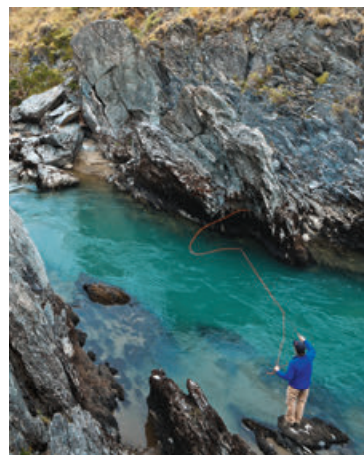
UNPLUGGED AND WILD

This park is remote, which is part of its great charm. There is no cellular phone coverage at the lodge, or anywhere in the park, although you may find some is available in Puerto Bertrand or Cochrane on your travels to and from the park. Lodge visitors have access to WiFi, however, the connection is slow and can be sporadic. Please do not plan on streaming video.



Activities in the Area

Outside of Patagonia Park



Come autumn, the lenga puts on a striking color show across the mountainsides.



Neighboring Towns

COCHRANE (pop. 2,867)
Cochrane is the closest town to Patagonia Park, and lies 40 minutes south on the Carretera Austral. If you choose to stay outside of the park, Cochrane offers a moderate selection of places to sleep and eat.

PUERTO BERTRAND (pop. 300)
Known for its unparalleled access to the Baker River, a beautiful turquoise river of whitewater that is well known for rafting and kayaking. Many visitors choose to stay at the Lodge and visit Puerto Bertrand for rafting trips. This village is located one hour north of Patagonia Park.

PUERTO TRANQUILO (pop. 400)
The lakeside town of Puerto Tranquillo is filled with outfitters ready to take adventurers on trips to the Marble Caves.

CHILE CHICO (pop. 3,000)
The town of Chile Chico sits at the northern entrance to Jeinemeni National Reserve, where the other side of the Avilés Trail begins.

CALETA TORTEL (pop. 320)
This coastal village was built almost entirely on wooden walkways posted above water. Located at the mouth of the Baker River, the regionally specific Chilotan architecture and stilted houses are the main draw for tourists.

VILLA O'HIGGINS (pop. 612)
Located at the southern end of the Carretera Austral, this beautiful small town borders Argentina and provides entry to the Southern Patagonian Ice Field.

There are many side excursions you can take while visiting the park—from fly fishing and rafting on wild rivers to trekking on the wildly remote Patagonia Ice Field.

Contact park personnel for recommendations and information on local guides.



RAFTING AND KAYAKING
Though we do not offer a boating or guiding service within the park, there are many well-qualified kayaking and boating opportunities within a short drive. Local operators lead custom rafting, kayaking, and packrafting journeys throughout the region.



FISHING Anglers from around the world visit the rivers of Aysén for the phenomenal fishing. The Cochrane and Baker Rivers, just outside the park, are renowned for their challenge and abundance, respectively. We discourage fishing within Patagonia Park as many of the ponds and lagoons are inhabited by endangered fish.



MARBLE CAVE TOUR
Located near Puerto Tranquillo, two hours north of the park, Capillas de Marmol (the Marble Caves) were formed by over 6,000 years of waves washing up against calcium carbonate. The smooth, swirling blues of the cavern walls are a reflection of the lake's azure waters, which change in intensity and hue depending on water levels and time of year. The caves are accessible only by boat; tours typically last 45 minutes to an hour.



PATAGONIA ICE FIELD TREKKING
The Northern Patagonia Ice Field, a vestige of the Patagonia Ice Sheet, covers an area of 4,200 km² (1,600 square miles), and is the second largest continuous mass of ice outside of the polar regions. It has 28 exit glaciers and extends out to the Pacific Ocean. Access to the ice field is located approximately two hours north of Patagonia Park.



Park Rules and Tips



We hope you enjoy your stay in the park. Here are a few guidelines to help make the most of your experience while being mindful of your impact. With your help we can keep this precious landscape wild and protected.



Absolutely **NO** fires allowed



Due to extreme fire risk, campfires or any type of burning are not allowed in the park. Personal camp stoves may be used in designated campground areas with care.

Leave what you find

Please don't take flowers, bones, artifacts, or anything else.

Respect wildlife

We are visitors at Patagonia Park but the wild creatures who live here are at home. Be a respectful guest.

Respect others

Be considerate of other visitors—keep noise to a minimum, especially at night. Do not play loud music at the campground or in other public spaces in the park. Keep a close eye on children at all times.

Do not litter!

Dispose of waste properly in waste receptacles at campsites and at the park headquarters, and use park bathrooms.

NO smoking

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the park.

Please refrain from smoking and especially from tossing anything recently lit out of your car.

Parking

Park your vehicle only in authorized places. Campsites are not designed for vehicles to enter the camping areas, so please do not drive on the grass.

Individuals with travel trailers or other large recreational vehicles should visit the office for information on where and how to park their vehicles.

Travel and camp on durable surfaces and stick to trails and established campsites.

Please visit us at the park office. We will be happy to answer any of your questions.



THE RIVER WILD Patagonia's rivers connect the mountains to the sea in a seamless web of life. They are a greater asset to Chile, ecologically and economically, for their beauty and wildness than for hydroelectric development.



KEEP THESE RIVERS FREE!

Large-scale hydroelectricity development is a constant threat to Patagonia's wild rivers. In 2014, after a seven-year battle, the ¡Patagonia Sin Represas! (Patagonia Without Dams) campaign celebrated a decisive victory over the proposed HidroAysén project, which would have built river-killing megadams on the park's neighboring Baker River. Originating in the nearby town of Cochrane, the Patagonia Sin Represas campaign organized massive public opposition in Chile (and around the world) to the dams scheme. While hailed internationally as a successful grassroots campaign, river activists remain vigilant to the return of these "zombie dams" and similar projects.

Coming Full Circle

Private Initiative and the Birth of Patagonia Park



The Patagonia Park story was decades in the making—an incredible tale of friendship, adventure, and a shared commitment to exploring, loving, and helping protect the Patagonia wilderness.



1961 Doug Tompkins first visits Chile for a ski race, returning numerous times in the following decades for mountaineering and kayaking expeditions.

1968 Doug Tompkins and his friend and climbing partner, Yvon Chouinard, drive from California to Patagonia to climb Mount Fitz Roy, documenting their adventures in the film *Mountain of Storms*. Yvon returns to California to grow his new company, Patagonia,

Inc., with the help of his friend Kristine McDivitt. Kris eventually becomes CEO of Patagonia, Inc., helping Yvon to build Patagonia into a renowned “anti-corporation” and a leader in the outdoor apparel industry. Doug starts the Esprit clothing company with his first wife, Susie, which turns into a global fashion powerhouse.

1990 Doug Tompkins retires from Esprit, quits the business world, and becomes a conservation activist.

1993 After 20 years as CEO, Kris McDivitt retires from Patagonia, Inc., marries Doug Tompkins and begins her conservation activism in South America.



2000 Kris McDivitt Tompkins founds Conservacion Patagonica, a U.S.-based nonprofit dedicated to creating national parks in Patagonia.

2004 With help from friends and partners, including Patagonia, Inc., Conservacion Patagonica purchases Estancia Valle Chacabuco and creates Patagonia Park. Every year since the land was purchased, Patagonia, Inc., has sponsored employees who wish to volunteer at the future Patagonia National Park.

MUCHAS GRACIAS

Conservacion Patagonica’s volunteer program has attracted people from around the world who are passionate about wildlands and wildlife. These individuals have made invaluable contributions toward the creation of the future Patagonia National Park. Their collective efforts—dismantling former ranch fencing, building trails, collecting native seeds, pulling invasive weeds, and performing countless other tasks—have been crucial. We are so grateful for their hard work!

Brochure created and donated by Patagonia, Inc.



Wild Legacy

Doug Tompkins—one of the most ambitious and successful conservationists in history—worked for a quarter century to create and expand national parks in Chile and Argentina, recover imperiled wildlife, demonstrate organic agricultural practices, promote healthy local communities, and support leading-edge activism. Following his death in December of 2015, these pioneering efforts continue under the leadership of his wife, Kristine McDivitt Tompkins, through the Tompkins Conservation umbrella of nonprofit organizations and with the support of like-minded organizations.

“Land and marine conservation, ecological restoration and rewilding, activism, and the reform of agriculture are the cornerstones of a strategy to help get the world back in balance, the climate stabilized, and a future in which we share the planet with all the other creatures, the results of four billion years of evolution. Upon reflection it seems so simple, but in practice we have a great challenge ahead of us. The question is: Are you ready to do your part? Everyone is capable of taking up their position across that long front, to use their energy, political influence, financial or other resources, and talents of all kinds to be part of a global movement for ecological and cultural health. All will be useful. There is important and meaningful work to be done. To change everything, everyone is needed.”

“There is important and meaningful work to be done. To change everything, everyone is needed.”

- DOUG TOMPKINS

- DOUG TOMPKINS
(1943-2015)



WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE – and contributing to the creation of a new national park is an opportunity of a lifetime.

Please help us restore, protect, and share this beautiful and biologically rich Patagonia Park, an enduring legacy for future generations—of guanacos and people.

Visit conservacionpatagonica.org to make a donation.

PARQUE  PATAGONIA

**TOMPKINS
CONSERVATION**

Photo contributions made by Lito Tejada-Flores, Linde Waidhofer, Daniel Cross, Tim Davis, Eliseo Miciu, Ross Donihue, Marty Schnure, Beth Wald, Chantal Henderson, Justin Lotak, Cristián Saucedo, Hernan Povedano, Manuel Cabrera, Laura Crawford Williams, Rex Bryngelson, Alison Kelman, Nick Hall, Francisco Vio, Eli Steltenpohl, Dagoberto Guzman, Nadine Lehner, Jeff Johnson, Chris Jones, James Q. Martín, Chris Van Dyke, Scott Soens

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