

Chile Extension

Torres del Paine

October 19 to 25, 2025



Paine Massif Horns
© Luis Andrade

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Embark on an unforgettable journey through **Torres del Paine National Park**, one of **Patagonia's** most stunning wilderness areas. This pre-trip extension takes you through awe-inspiring landscapes, from the towering peaks of the Paine Massif to glacier-fed lakes and sprawling grasslands teeming with wildlife. Take a scenic boat excursion to **Grey Glacier**, where you may witness massive ice calving events, and explore the park's diverse ecosystems, home to **guanacos**, **Andean Condors**, **Magellanic Woodpeckers**, and more. Springtime in Patagonia offers blooming wildflowers, dramatic cloud formations, and incredible photography opportunities, making this an ideal extension before your **Antarctic expedition**.

WHY CHOOSE THIS EXTENSION?

- **Discover the Majestic Paine Massif:** Marvel at jagged peaks, deep valleys, and pristine glacial lakes that define this UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.
- **Wildlife Encounters in Patagonia:** Spot guanacos, Andean Condors, foxes, and rare bird species in their natural habitat.
- **Exclusive Grey Glacier Boat Excursion:** Get up close to the calving ice face of Grey Glacier, one of Patagonia's largest and most active glaciers.

- **Springtime Beauty & Unique Landscapes:** Experience Patagonia in full bloom, with wildflowers, golden grasslands, and snow-capped peaks.
- **Expert-Led Small-Group Adventure:** Gain insights from a local naturalist guide, enhancing your understanding of Patagonia’s ecosystems and geology.

TRIP OPTION: This is a pre-trip extension to our South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula trip from [October 23 to November 14, 2025](#)

LEADER: Nicolás Castro

DAYS: Adds 4 days to the main trip to total 27 days, including estimated travel time.

GROUP SIZE: 8.

COST: \$4,050 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 5.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Oct 19	Travel to Punta Arenas, Chile. Arrive in Patagonia’s southernmost city, a gateway to Torres del Paine National Park.		
Oct 20	Arrive in Punta Arenas. Explore coastal landscapes and local wildlife before settling in for the night.	Hotel Cabo de Hornos, Punta Arenas	
Oct 21	Scenic Drive to Torres del Paine. Journey through Patagonian steppes, stopping for wildlife viewing and photography.	Hotel Las Torres Patagonia, Torres del Paine	B, L, D
Oct 22	Grey Glacier Boat Excursion & Dawn Photography. Witness massive icebergs, stunning mountain views, and the changing hues of the Paine Massif.		B, L, D
Oct 23	Explore Eastern Torres del Paine. Discover rich birdlife and blooming spring flora in the park’s wetlands and lagoons.		B, L, D
Oct 24	Final Morning & Return to Punta Arenas. Capture sunrise photography of the Torres del Paine peaks, then drive back to Punta Arenas.		B, L
Oct 25	Continue to South Georgia & Antarctic Peninsula Expedition. Join the main South Georgia & Antarctica trip.		

LEADER



Nicolás Castro

Nicolás is a skilled wildlife guide and photographer based in Puerto Natales, Chile. A graduate of Canada's College of the Rockies, his deep knowledge of Patagonian ecosystems is complemented by guiding and expedition experience across Chile, Argentina, Canada, and Central America. Originally from Chile's Lake District, he brings years of experience leading high-end tours in Torres del Paine National Park. His passion for photography and conservation led to his photographs being featured in educational and promotional materials to raise awareness around wildlife and ecosystem preservation. His combined passion and skill make him an exceptional leader dedicated to conservation and immersive nature experiences.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Oct 19 ~ Travel to Punta Arenas, Chile

Depart for **Punta Arenas**, the gateway to **Chilean Patagonia** and the starting point of your **Torres del Paine** adventure.

Oct 20 ~ Arrive in Punta Arenas

Upon arrival, meet your guide and transfer to your hotel. Optional explorations include a scenic coastal walk, **birdwatching** along the **Strait of Magellan**, or exploring the town's historic center.

Oct 21 ~ Drive to Torres del Paine National Park

During your journey to the park, you will observe how the strong westerly winds have sculpted the vegetation of the **Patagonian steppes**. En route you may find **guanaco**, a **southern relative to camels**, **southern grey fox**, and **Patagonian skunk** while enjoying your first contact with **southern beech** (*Nothofagus*) forests. You will stop several times for photography and wildlife observation along the way. You may find colorful groups of Chilean **Flamingos** on the alkaline pools and **Black-necked** and **Coscoroba Swans** on the shores of Ultima Esperanza Fjord in Puerto Natales. Driving towards the park, enjoy splendid vistas of the hilly terrain and if it's clear, of the Paine Massif in the distance. While visiting the valleys you will learn about the origins of the dramatic backdrop of Torres del Paine, one of the finest natural spectacles in Patagonia. In the evening you may do a nature walk or a sunset photo session.



Guanacos
© Debbie Thompson

Oct 22 ~ Western Torres del Paine and Grey Glacier

You will start early to view and photograph the **Paine Massif** at dawn. Today you will explore the southern and western regions of this vast national park, which comprises 600,000 acres. The omnipresent Paine Massif, a magnificent set of rugged peaks formed out of granite and sedimentary rock, dominates the landscape. You will have the opportunity to explore the southern beech forests and its diversity of plants and animals; you may find **Magellanic Woodpecker**, **Austral Parakeet** and, if you are lucky, the shy Andean deer (huemul). Take in the contrasting mosaic of towering mountains, glaciers, wetlands, steppes, and forests. Lake Grey is one of the highlights of the day where colossal icebergs are stranded on the southern shore of the lake after a long, slow transit from the glacier front.



Grey Glacier
© Debbie Thompson

From the southern shore you will board our boat for a 3-hour excursion through the icy waters of the lake towards the impressive and actively calving front of the **Grey Glacier**. Grey is one of the nearly 50 outlet glaciers originating from the massive **Southern Patagonian Ice Field**, the world's third largest ice cap after **Antarctica** and **Greenland**. The front is full of crevasses and the solid glacial ice colors vary from whitish to deep indigo. The glacier is flanked towards the east by impressive granite walls that are part of the Paine Massif, and towards the west by the eroded and low summits of the older Andes. You will be treated with a glass of Pisco sour or Scotch with millenary (glacier) ice. In the evening you may do a photo outing for sunset and the dramatic cloud formations.

Oct 23 ~ Eastern Torres del Paine

Venture into the park's eastern sector, home to reed-fringed lagoons and vast wetlands, supporting over **120 bird species**. With expert guidance, observe **Andean Condors** soaring overhead, **Black-necked Swans** gliding across lakes, and vibrant spring wildflowers carpeting the valleys.

Oct 24 ~ Eastern Torres del Paine and back to Punta Arenas

You will start early to photograph and view the Towers or the Horns with the first light. With the right lighting, the mountain base turns orange and the scene becomes very dramatic with peculiar lenticular clouds moving fast over the peaks. At the eastern corner of **Sarmiento Lake**, you will reach a location that commands the most incredible views of the towering



Andean Condor
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

peaks of Las Torres, the pinnacles from which the park takes its name. As you move around the park, you might observe herds of **guanaco**, the curious-looking **lesser rhea**, and impressive **Andean Condors** soaring along the road. During the morning you will visit the eastern side of the park to enjoy the views of one of the impressive water falls of **Paine River** and if it's clear, of the fabulous granite columns of the Paine massif from Laguna Amarga. If you'd prefer to hike to the base of the Towers, you can opt to do this today; your hotel can provide a guide (costs extra). After your picnic lunch, you will head back to Punta Arenas.

Oct 25 ~ Join our South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula trip

Board your next adventure, continuing onto the [South Georgia & Antarctic Peninsula Expedition](#), where the journey from Patagonia to the polar wilderness begins.

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, double occupancy	\$4,050
Single Supplement	\$855

Costs are per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

Payment Schedule

Payment is due with your main trip's final payment; see its [trip itinerary](#) for details.

Cancellations

Cancellations are non-transferrable. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date.

Included

- Carbon offsets for the duration of this trip.
- All leaders, transport, park entry fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- Meals from breakfast on October 21 through lunch on October 24.
- Mineral water to refill your reusable water bottle
- Transfers from Punta Arenas Airport to Hotel Cabo de Hornos, regardless of arrival day.
- Trip Planning Materials – information about entry requirements, flights, packing, gratuities, etc.

Not Included

- Carbon offsets for your flights to/from this trip.
- All airfare, airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees.
- Passport and visa fees.
- We can arrange extra hotel nights for an extra cost.
- Gratuities – tipping is always discretionary. However, we will add a gratuity of \$120 per participant (\$30 per participant per day for October 21 to 24 for Nico, the local guides, drivers, and additional services) to your final payment.
- [Emergency evacuation insurance and trip cancellation insurance](#).
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room

service, alcoholic and other beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Traveler Reservation Form.

SIGN UP

Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Traveler Reservation Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

[Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris](#)

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OTHER DETAILS

Climate

Torres del Paine is notorious for its unpredictable weather conditions, so be prepared for wind, warm sun, and sudden cold. The average temperatures in Torres del Paine in October range from about 35°F (2°C) at night to about 55°F (13°C) during the day, and rain is infrequent.

Fitness Level

You will drive to locations of interest and do some short hikes for birdlife around the fringed lagoons and other areas. The longest hike is on Lake Grey's Beach which is 2 miles round trip. The rest of the hikes are not long or strenuous and although the terrain is uneven, the routes are not steep. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging.

Flights

Detailed logistical information is included in the Trip Planning Materials we will send you.

Flights you book

- Arrive in Punta Arenas (PUQ) by 11:59pm on October 20.
- Depart from Ushuaia, Argentina (USH) after 12:00pm on November 13.

Terms and Conditions

Read our current [Terms and Conditions](#).

Conservation

Our company ethos has always regarded conservation as inseparable from responsible tourism. We struggle with the dilemma that traveling worldwide expends climate-changing carbon. However, we wholeheartedly believe that traveling with us will cultivate your passion for conserving our beautiful world while stimulating each destination's local economy. We encourage you to explore the various ways in which Cheesemans' operates within this context:

- **Cheesemans' Trips are Carbon Neutral.**
- **Offsetting your Travel to/from our Trip:** We ask you to pledge to offset the carbon emissions for your travel to and from our trips. You can purchase offsets with most airlines (Delta includes them

automatically), use our handy [carbon calculator](#) and donate to Sustainable Travel International, or contribute to your favorite offsetting organization.