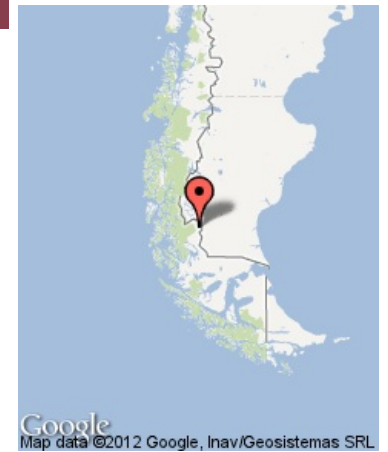


Patagonia Eco Camp Lodge



Highlights

Reconnect with nature and explore Patagonia's wildlife from an eco camp lodge deep in the Torres del Paine National Park. Choose from a short four-day break or stay a whole week all meals included.

The **Torres del Paine** National Park is a sprawling space that harbours mountains, glaciers, lakes and rivers within its clutches. Although it's a Chilean National Park, the place itself actually lies between the Patagonian Steppes and the Magellanic subpolar forests. And way back in 1978, UNESCO granted it the title of World Biosphere Reserve. The whole area has been graced with more than its fair share of beauty, but it's the Torres del Paine massif itself that really stands out. These huge silver-grey spurs of rock jut upwards and, on clear days, frame magnificent cobalt-blue sky.

The highlights on this trip all depend on how long you decide to stay. Obviously, choose a week-long trip and you'll see heaps more than on a four-day tour. Stand-out bits include the chance to sail to Grey Glacier in the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. It's a staggeringly beautiful icy blue landscape that sprawls for miles from the Patagonian Andes Mountains. Elsewhere, you'll have the chance to trek through Ascencio Valley – a thickly-wooded forest in the National Park, and up to Towers Base – the rocky base beneath the shadows of the Torres del Paine mountain range.

Is it for me?

If you're conscious of your carbon footprint yet still want to see the world, this wildlife safari won't give you a guilty conscience. You'll be staying in private, deluxe suites in an eco-camp so you'll get a bit of luxury and time to yourself in the evenings. During the day you'll be out on safari and will spend time in a small group of like-minded people, so you'll have the chance to make new acquaintances. That said, if you prefer to do things alone this might not be the best trip for you.

Accommodation

You'll be staying in a modern eco-camp that looks rather space age. Bedrooms are decorated in calm neutral tones and kitted out with wicker chairs, comfy beds and low-emission wood-burning stoves. Each eco-dome has a private bathroom which has its own composting device to get rid of waste. In fact, you'd be hard pushed to find anywhere with more eco credentials than this place.

In terms of food, you'll get all your meals included – breakfasts, packed lunches and dinners. Expect tasty dishes prepared by a chef and served in the eco-camp's domed dining room. In the evening, meals are relaxed and are served with wine.

Itinerary

You can choose to stay for four, five or six days. Below is a sample itinerary for a five-day trip, starting at Punta Arenas, Puerto Natales or Calafate.

Day 1 - Enter Torres del Paine

Day 2 – Walk around Pehoe Lake and Grey Lake

Prices from

1,151 GBP (4 days) per person

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Day 3 – Wildlife watching in the park

Day 4 – Walk around Laguna Verde

Day 5 – Leave Torres del Paine

Details

Getting there

Flying to Chile or Argentina...

Fly into Santiago de Chile or Buenos Aires Argentina. LAN is an excellent airline with departure gates in Miami, New York, Los Angeles, Madrid and Frankfurt. Air France, British Airways & Lufthansa are the big European airlines flying to Chile. You will need to fly on to Punta Arenas Airport (PUQ).

Joining instructions...

Pick up is offered from Punta Arenas airport or from your hotel in the town.

Price includes

Accommodation in eco domes; bus tickets between Calafate and Natales (if starting / finishing in Calafate); meals as indicated; ground transport; English speaking escort guide; Park fees for Cueva del Milodon and Torres del Paine National Park; boat crossing ticket over Grey Lake and/or Pehoe Lake.

Price quoted is for the 4 day stay and is per person based on 2 people sharing during the high season. Prices vary according to the time of your stay, length of your stay and the number of people in your group.

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed