

SOUTH AMERICA - PUMA TRACKING AND WILDLIFE SAFARI



TRIP CODE

CLQUPTWS

DEPARTURE

Daily 01 May - 27
September 2019

DURATION

7 Days

LOCATIONS

Chile, Patagonia



INTRODUCTION

The Puma Tracking and Wildlife Safari is a unique way to explore the magnificent Torres del Paine National Park. Accompanied by an expert tracker and local guide, travellers will have the opportunity to track, observe and photograph the elusive "Andean Lion". Somewhere in the vastness of towering glaciers, rugged mountains and emerald glaciers the Puma waits to be found. This is a truly unique experience that combines both an adventurous search and awe-inspiring landscapes.


ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Arrive to Patagonia and Transfer

Early morning flight from Santiago to Punta Arenas. On arrival into Punta Arenas airport you'll be met by our guide and driver who'll take you north for approximately 2½ hours to the town of Puerto Natales. Here, you'll also be given the opportunity to meet and greet your puma tracking leader over a coffee, tea and other snacks. Your bags will be transferred over to your Jeep Wrangler Rubicon which will be your exploration and tracking vehicle for the days in the park. After a short briefing and a break, you'll continue for the final 1½ hour drive north to your hotel in Torres del Paine National Park, one of the most beautiful parks in all of Chile. Depending on what time you arrive at your hotel, we may conduct our first game drive within the area to look for pumas and other wildlife. This will be done with the knowledge of our tracker who will have scoped the area for pumas earlier that day. If we do arrive too late for your first puma tracking, we'll simply use the remainder of the evening to rest and relax in the hotel. You'll have plenty of time to enjoy the spa or spend some time at the bar before being briefed in full that night followed by dinner.



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DAY 2: Puma Tracking in Torres del Paine

Your second day will start at sunrise and will include some coffee and treats. Our tracker will inspect the puma lands which are one of the favored foraging grounds for the guanaco. These mammals are relatives of the Andean llama and the African camel and congregate in the region as its hills and valley walls offer protection from the cool night winds. This area is also a gathering point of pumas as they look to feed on guanacos. If our tracker finds something, we will be radioed to let us know. Your morning half-day will end at approximately 10:00am when we'll return to the lodge for a late breakfast and break. During this break time, you'll also have the chance to have lunch, rest, check your gear, download and edit photos, charge batteries, take a shower and enjoy the spa. You'll depart from the lodge again for evening activities in the same area at approximately 4:00pm. At this time, the light is usually perfect for capturing photos of the incredible landscape as the setting sun draws out incredible hues




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DAY 3: Wildlife Observation - Day 3 to 5

We start off each day early, utilising the distinct landscapes of Torres del Paine to take amazing photography of the sunrise, while enjoying coffee and breakfast on the go. Our expert Puma tracking team, already hard at work, will radio to contact us about any potential sightings. We begin our beautiful wildlife observation by exploring a series of places inside the Torres del Paine National Park, making use of the beautiful morning light and animal activity. These will take us through different habitats and ecosystems of several native wildlife including the guanaco, grey foxes, red foxes, haired armadillos and of course, the puma. Some of these unique ecosystems include systems of caves featuring paintings of the native Tehuelche tribes that lived in the area in centuries past. We visit landmark places such as Sarmiento Lake, which is unique for its formations of large sedimentary rock. If you have already caught enough glimpses of the puma, you will have the option to take part in additional activities such as horseback riding, hiking, kayaking, fly fishing and glacier navigations.



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DAY 6: Departure from Torres del Paine


This morning you'll have one last chance for sunrise photography or the chance to take part in one last game drive before breakfast. You will then return to the hotel to take the approximately 1 and half hour drive to Puerto Natales. If your flight doesn't depart until the late afternoon, you'll have a stop to have lunch. Otherwise, you will be transferred to another van which will head to Punta Arenas for your flight home. Your itinerary on Day 6 can change based on your departing flight time.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS	
Accommodation	Standard

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Inclusions	Accommodation with all meals Open Bar (soft drinks, mineral water, juices, house wines, beers and non-premium liquors) Daily excursions with bilingual guide and tracker Transfers from Punta Arenas, Puerto Natales and Calafate Entrance fee to Torres del Paine National Park Exclusions International or Domestic Airfare Hotels, tours or transfers while in Santiago or other areas of Chile Tips to guides or hotel staff
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Not Available
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you’re visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu’s “Pass it on” programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures’ offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure’s internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.