PROVINCE OF ÚLTIMA ESPERANZA

MAGALLANES AND ANTÁRTICA CHILENA REGION

"Autorizada su circulación, por Resolución Nº 122 del 20 de Noviembre del 2019 de la Dirección Nacional de Fronteras y Límites del Estado. La edición y circulación de mapas, cartas geográficas u otros impresos y documentos que se refieran o relacionen con los límites y fronteras de Chile, no comprometen, en modo alguno, al Estado de Chile, de acuerdo con el Art. 2º, letra g) del DFL. Nº 83 de 1979 del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores"

* Agreement between the Republic of Chile and the Republic of Argentina to specify the path of the boundary from Mount Fitz-Roy to Mount Daudet (Buenos Aires, December 16, 1998)

PROVINCE

ÚLTIMA ESPERANZA

The Torres del Paine National Park is the uncontested icon not only of the province, but also of the entire Magallanes and Antártica Chilena Region.

Covering almost 55,000 km², the geography of the province of Última Esperanza is criss-crossed by a multitude of channels, fjords, and gulfs that largely comprise the Bernardo O'Higgins, Torres del Paine, and Kawésqar National Parks, which are hands down the major natural attractions of the area.

A favorite of adventurers and of international renown is Torres del Paine National Park, which boasts the singularity of encompassing Patagonia's main ecosystems in one place: pampas, forests, glaciers, mountains, lakes, and rivers, which led UNESCO to declare it World Biosphere Reserve in 1978. The city of Puerto Natales is the provincial capital. It is a geographical hub and the center of operations for tourists, given its proximity to different mountain ranges and the cruises that sail to the Serrano and Balmaceda glaciers, both of which are located in the Bernardo O'Higgins National Park. This park is the largest in Chile, spanning 3,525,901 hectares.

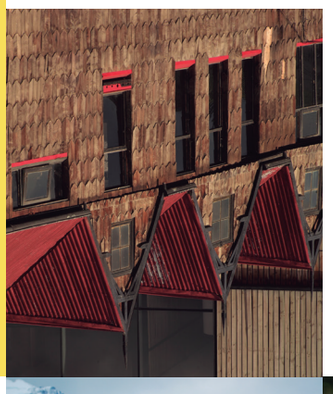
RIO SERRANO VILLAGE. On the south bank of the Río Serrano, 80 kilometers north of Puerto Natales, there is a small village that has several hotels, cabins, and camping sites. It is a good alternative for accommodation close to the Torres del Paine National Park. It has camping sites, restaurants, hotels, and barbeque areas with a beautiful view of the Paine Mountain Range. It offers activities such as fishing, horseback riding, or trekking.

CERRO CASTILLO VILLAGE. It is the capital of the Torres del Paine district, 300 kilometers north of Punta Arenas. Many of its buildings comprised the Cerro Castillo farm of the early twentieth century. The Río Don Guillermo border crossing is located here. The village offers different types of accommodation. The great statue of a horse standing on its hind legs, a tribute to the faithful companion of the gauchos (cowboys), is not to be missed.

Puerto Natales

Thanks to its privileged location, the city of Puerto Natales is ground zero for great adventures and Patagonian excursions.

Located 248 kilometers from Punta Arenas, the city was founded by Scottish and German immigrants who came to export mutton and wool to Europe. Today, the small city in the middle of Patagonia has become an interesting culinary center. It is a must before continuing to the Torres del Paine National Park. Its boutique hotels, which capitalized on the early twentieth century architecture, are a real-life testament to the regional boom and culinary revolution experienced by Puerto Natales.



HOW TO GET THERE.

BY AIR. Direct flight from Santiago to Punta Arenas, which takes around 3 hours and 20 minutes. Santiago-Puerto Natales only during the high season (November to March); the flight takes around 3 hours and 15 minutes.

BY LAND. From Punta Arenas to Puerto Natales, approximately 3 hours.

BY SEA. There are two ferries. One arrives from Puerto Montt (72-hour trip), while the second departs from Puerto Yungay (41-hour trip).

HERITAGE ROUTE

This is a historical trail that goes from Puerto Natales to Puerto Consuelo, passing through Puerto Bories and Puerto Condor. In the late nineteenth century, Puerto Consuelo was the colonization site of the Última Esperanza Province; Puerto Prat was the first town to witness the birth of the province in 1899; and Puerto Bories was the largest livestock slaughterhouse in Chile and Patagonia during the early twentieth century. It is now a National Historical Landmark. All of these locations are connected by the waterfront of the fjords in Última Esperanza and Eberhard along the Pioneer Trail of Puerto Natales. The tour has a special geographical beauty.

Duration: Half a day. Check with local tourism agencies.

Urban Activities

Puerto Natales, tourist capital of the Chilean Patagonia.

★ **MONUMENT TO THE WIND.** Located on the waterfront of Puerto Natales, it was unveiled in 2012. It is a tribute to the wind that characterizes the province.

ETHERN AIKE ARTISANAL VILLAGE. Here, one can find the works of local artisans, inspired by the magic of the native peoples, rural life, and native flora and fauna.

PLAZA DE ARMAS ARTURO PRAT. Located at the city center, Plaza de Armas Arturo Prat (Arturo Prat Square) is a tribute to the naval hero. It is surrounded by the parish church and municipal and government buildings. The square has a locomotive that was originally used to transport workers from the Puerto Bories cold storage at the height of the sheep industry.

COSTANERA AVENUE. It borders Canal Señoret. It is an excellent place to take photographs of waterfowl and of Seno Última Esperanza and Península Antonio Varas. To the North, one can see a panoramic view of the Serrano and Balmaceda glaciers.

★ **MUELLE BRAUN BLANCHARD.** When walking along the coast, one can see the remains of the dock that used to belong to the Braun and Blanchard house. The "house" was a prosperous trading company in the late nineteenth century Chilean-Argentine Patagonia. Today, this old dock is home to the cormorants, a classic postcard of Puerto Natales.

MUELLE BRAUN BLANCHARD

DOWNTOWN PUERTO NATALES. The main stores are located in the city center. There are a variety of cafes, chocolate shops, and tourism agencies, as well as places to purchase regional literature, maps of the area, and equipment.

RESTAURANTS, PUBS, AND THE CASINO. Puerto Natales is known for its culinary delights, which can be enjoyed in the different restaurants and pubs in the city center and along the waterfront. One can visit a craft brewery and taste its exquisite flavors, and also a gin distillery. Another fun alternative is the Casino.

VILLA CERRO CASTILLO MUNICIPAL MUSEUM. This museum consists of a single room that houses exhibitions on natural history, aboriginal settlement of the Tehuelches indigenous peoples, colonization, and development of the livestock industry.

★ **PIONEER HOUSES.** One of the city's pioneer houses is located at the access to the waterfront. It was built in 1904 and has great historical and cultural value. The house, built in 1918 and located on one of the corners of the main square, is also of great historical importance. Today, it has become a popular pizzeria.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MURAL. The city center displays this mural in honor of the indigenous peoples. It tells the story of the Kawésqar and Aónikenk ethnic groups, who lived between the sea and the pampas.

MUNICIPAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM. Its exhibitions include samples of archaeological objects of the aborigines that lived in area, while others are dedicated to local history and settlement of the colonization of the province, highlighting livestock activity.

FARMS, PUERTO NATALES

AGRITOURISM

Agritourism allows one to sample the everyday rural Patagonian world.

The development of sheep farming activity in Magallanes was organized through the ranch model, a way of life that persists and that allows visitors to interact with the rural world of Patagonia.

The ranches (estancias) provide a way for the public to approach the customs of the gauchos (cowboys) that populated the Patagonian countryside. Those that have opened to tourism offer activities and everyday tasks such as sheep shearing, horseback riding, sheep herding with sheep dogs, livestock branding, and dressage, among others. One of the largest shearing sheds in the province is the one located inEstancia Cerro Guido. Its large manor house preserves the architecture and some of the real estate of the early twentieth century.

Lists

- In Puerto Natales, the stores close between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- Always book your accommodation in advance.
- Carry Chilean pesos, not all shops accept electronic payment systems.
- Shops in Puerto Natales do not provide plastic bags, so we recommend that you carry your purchases in your backpack or use eco-friendly bags.

A bit of literature

"Patagonia Bravia", William Greenwood (edited by Gladys Grace Paz & Duncan Campbell).

"Última Esperanza en el tiempo", Mateo Martinic.

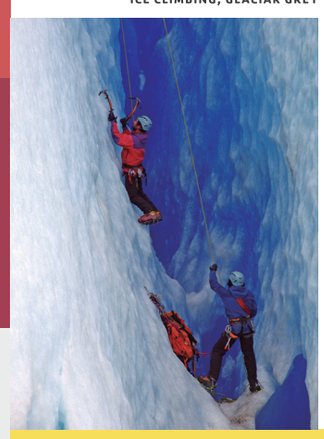
"Across Patagonia", Florence Dixie.

"El capitan Eberhard, pionero de la Patagonia", Karin Eberhard-Martiny.

Activities in Nature

CLIMBING. Ater requesting the Park administration's authorization to do so, one can climb inside Cueva del Milodón Natural Landmark. Torres del Paine National Park has multiple places for experienced climbers, such as the Torres and the Valle del Francés area. All these places require preparation and the use of suitable equipment for the weather and, most importantly, the wind. The Park administration's authorization is also required.

ICE CLIMBING, GLACIAR GREY



KAYAKING. Seno Última Esperanza is an ideal place to go kayaking on windless days. Other places for kayaking are Fiordo Eberhard in Puerto Consuelo and Laguna Sofía. One must hire a specialized guide, suitable kayaks for this type of excursion, and notify the Chilean Navy of the relevant travel plans. Some tourism agencies offer these kayaking tours. Torres del Paine offers different types of excursions: boating down the Río Serrano to Puerto Natales (a 2-4 day trip), full day's rowing at Lago Grey. Some of the hotels also offer these types of activities.

SPORT FISHING. One can find wonderful places for sport fishing in the vicinity of Puerto Natales. The bounteous rivers and lakes are home to brown and rainbow trout. The Balmaceda, Pinto, and Toro lakes and the Hollemberg and Serrano rivers are especially recommended. One should ideally plan ahead with local operators and tour guides.

Chilean residents must obtain an "inland waters" and a "marine waters" Recreational Fishing License. Foreigners must request a one-year license at the offices of SERNAPESCA or through its website, www.sernapesca.cl

The fishing areas allowed by the Torres del Paine National Park administration comprise the Río Serrano until it flows into the Río Grey.

Important: Fishing enthusiasts must wash and disinfect any item that comes into contact with the aquatic environment to prevent contamination and/or spread of Didymo.

The fishing season runs from October to April.

HORSEBACK RIDING. This activity is carried out in different areas of Puerto Natales and around the Torres del Paine National Park, crossing rivers, forests, or even reaching some glaciers with the help of the Baqueanos, who know the area in all its immensity. Some hotels and tourism agencies offer this type of excursions.

★ **WILDLIFE OBSERVATION.** One of the main attractions of the Torres del Paine National Park is its great diversity of animal species: 118 species of well-known birds, 26 species of mammals, 5 species of fish, 6 species of reptiles and 3 species of amphibians. While in spring one can see colorful native flowers, as of April the forest foliage changes to shades of reds and dark browns.

Must-sees

★ **CERRO DOROTEA SCENIC LOOKOUT.** The Dorotea scenic lookout, 600 m.a.s.l., is the perfect place to experience the best panoramic view and glacier landscape surrounding Puerto Natales, Seno Última Esperanza, Golfo Montt, and the Dumestre area. In this sector, one can go trekking, horseback riding, and biking.

Location: 9 km along Route 9 towards Punta Arenas from Puerto Natales.

Access: Private property, request authorization. Local agencies conduct guided tours.

★ **SIERRA BAGUALES.** This volcanic mountain range of singular beauty is located 120 kilometers northeast of the city of Puerto Natales. This is where the geopaleontological sector is located.

Access: Private property, request authorization. Local agencies conduct guided tours.

★ **FIORDO EBERHARD.** In this quiet sea inlet located north of Puerto Natales, visitors can go kayaking and horseback riding while admiring breathtaking views of the Paine massif. A variety of sea birds can be spotted. The excursion includes a visit to Isla Kruger, also known as the Island of the Dead, as the first settlers used it as a cemetery.

Local agencies conduct guided tours.

★ **NAVIGATING THE BALMACEDA AND SERRANO GLACIERS.** Both are located in Bernardo O'Higgins National Park. Visitors cross Seno Última Esperanza, enjoying a journey of exceptional beauty before disembarking and walking through a lush forest of Magellan's beech and Antarctic beech until they reach the foot of the Serrano glacier.

Local agencies conduct guided tours.

★ **PUERTO BORIES.** It was the first settlement of the province. It currently has a five-star hotel opened by the Museo Frigorífico Bories, a space that recalls the industrial complex that was founded in 1915. The building was declared a historical landmark in 1996.

Location: 5 km from Puerto Natales.

FOLK FESTIVALS

★ **VILLA CERRO CASTILLO CHILEAN FOLK FESTIVAL.** One of the most important cultural events in the Magallanes and Antártica Chilena Region, rooted in traditions and customs. Culinary events, rodeos, and *jineteadas*, among other activities.

Date: Late January.

★ **PUERTO NATALES ANNIVERSARY.** Different cultural activities take place throughout the month of May, including parades, live music, mass dances and the election of the sovereign queen.

Date: Throughout May.

Tourist Attractions Map

Última Esperanza Province

National Tourism Service I Chile

Magallanes and Antártica Chilena Region

Free Map

www.patagonia-chile.com

National Tourism Service I Chile

Punta Arenas
Monseñor Fagnano 643
infomagallanes@sernatur.cl
(61) 224 8790 - 2225385

Puerto Natales
Pedro Montt 19
infonatales@sernatur.cl
(61) 241 2125

Porvenir
Av. Manuel Señoret 770
600 600 60 66

Free distribution
Not for sale

Leave No Trace

LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES

Plan ahead and prepare
Travel and camp on durable surfaces
Dispose of waste properly
Leave what you find (fossils, plants, etc)
Minimize campfire impacts (be careful with fire)
Respect wildlife
Be considerate of other visitors

PATAGONIA CHILE

SERNATUR Región de Magallanes y Antártica Chilena — Gobierno de Chile

GOBIERNO REGIONAL MAGALLANES Y ANTÁRTICA CHILENA

Torres del Paine National Park

The uncontested icon of the Magallanes region.

W CIRCUIT

The W trail covers Torres del Paine National Park's most important landmarks. The foot of the Torres can be reached through Río Ascencio valley, and then on to Lago Nordenskjöld to reach the Los Cuernos shelter. The excursion continues along the Valle del Francés trail, which has a panoramic view of Cuernos del Paine and ends at Glaciar Grey.

Difficulty: Medium-High
Distance: 76 km
Duration: 4 to 5 days

MACIZO PAINE CIRCUIT

This circuit, which includes the W circuit, begins at the visitor's center of the Cerro Paine Reserve. It heads north to reach the Serón sector. Upon bordering the northern part of Macizo Paine, it encounters Lago Dickson and Paso John Gardner, the highest part of the circuit at 1,241 m.a.s.l., with a privileged view of the Southern Ice Field. The path subsequently joins the W circuit.

Difficulty: Medium-High
Distance: 134 km
Duration: 7 to 10 days

Notes

- Information and entrance tickets to Torres del Paine National Park are available at the Puerto Natales Bus Station.
- Always book your accommodation in advance.
- There are no ATM's or service stations in the park, so stock up in Puerto Natales.
- All park ranger stations managed by CONAF have radio communication.
- Internet services are only available at the lodgings and some of the restaurants in the park, for use only by guests.
- The park's various shelters, campsites, and lodgings offer food and trekking equipment, as well as basic sanitary services.
- Lighting fires and/or cigarettes while on the trails is strictly forbidden. In the event of a fire, try to put it out or give immediate notice to the nearest park ranger.
- The hiking trails have closing hours.
- Camp only in authorized places, contribute to keeping the park clean, and protect wildlife.
- During the winter season (May-September), the presence of a guide is mandatory in order to complete the W Circuit.
- The use of drones in any sector of the park is forbidden.

REMEMBER

Ecosystems are very sensitive to environmental damage, so one must take care of and respect wildlife, camping in the places defined for this, not feeding the animals, and not leaving any trash behind.

CUEVA DEL MILODÓN AND LAGUNA SOFÍA SECTOR

CUEVA DEL MILODÓN. Archaeological site declared a natural landmark. This is an enormous cave, more than 200 meters deep, 80 meters wide, and 30 meters high. More than 15,000 years ago, it housed extinct large animals such as the mylodon or the saber-toothed tiger, and it was probably a hunting site for the first inhabitants of the Patagonia. One can walk to a scenic lookout located on the roof of the cave, from where spectacular views of Fiordo Eberhard and its channels, the surrounding mountains, and glaciers can be enjoyed. The trail allows low difficulty walks lasting 2.5 to 3 hours.

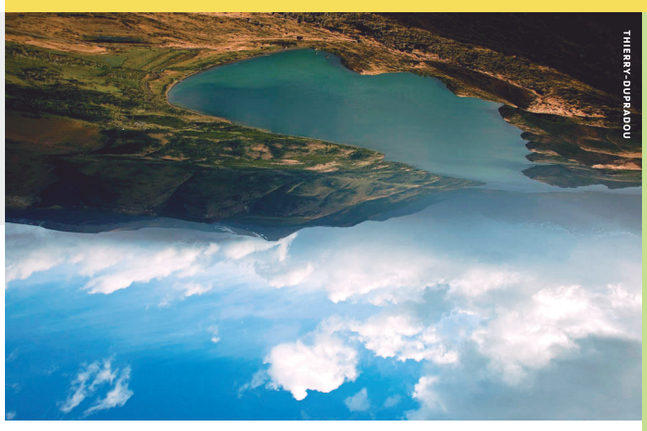
There is also the opportunity to visit the Condor Scenic Lookout, where one can usually see these majestic birds flying high in the skies.

Location: 26 kilometers north of Puerto Natales. This service can be hired at tourism agencies. One can also take a taxi, ride a bicycle, or lease a vehicle in the city.

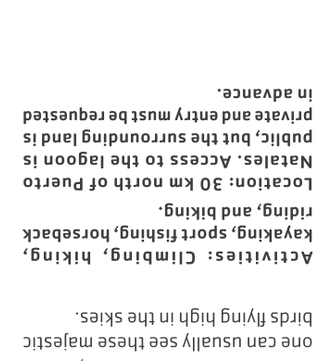
Activities: Climbing, hiking, kayaking, sport fishing, horseback riding, and biking.

★ **LAGUNA SOFÍA.** It has a great view of Cordillera Prat, Glaciar Balmaceda, and Cerro Tenerife, among others. From the highest points, one can see Seno Última Esperanza. There are authorized

Location: 30 km north of Puerto Natales. Access to the lagoon is public, but the surrounding land is private and entry must be requested in advance.



LAGUNA SOFÍA



CUEVA DEL MILODÓN

Patagonian Channels

A land filled with natural wonders that invite contemplation and exploration

Chile, and one of the largest in the world. It mostly consists of channels, islands, and extensive ice surfaces, giving rise to an irregular topography and extreme climatic conditions. The glaciers, all of great volume and density, are impressive. One of the most striking is the Glaciar Pío XI, which is 75 meters high.

KAWÉSQAR NATIONAL PARK. It is one of the largest parks in the world and the second largest in Chile. Fiordo de Las Montañas, Cordillera Sarmiento, and the glaciers that emerge from it, are some of the natural wonders of this park, which attracts the eyes of visitors from all over the world.

FIORDO DE LAS MONTAÑAS. An outing that undoubtedly stands out for its remarkable wild and virgin landscapes, where the stars of the show are the mountains of the Patagonian Andes. It covers a length of around 40 km, with numerous waterfalls, native forests, and glaciers that end in the sea.

FIORDO DE LAS MONTAÑAS

PUERTO EDÉN. Located on Isla Wellington, it is the last populated town in Última Esperanza Province along the maritime route between Puerto Natales and Puerto Montt. The basis of its main economic activity is artisanal fishing, while artisans rescue the crafting traditions of the Kawésqar, the nomadic natives of the sea. The small town is crossed by walkways, and radio or satellite telephony connectivity depends on the weather conditions.

BERNARDO O'HIGGINS NATIONAL PARK. With 3,525,901 hectares, it is the largest national park and protected wildlife area in

MAP BY LEÓN DEL MONTE LTDA. 2019
www.leondelmonte.cl

DESIGN. Constanza Ugar A., Carmen Montt A., Natalia Rodríguez V., Paulina Astudillo C. and Catalina Browne H.
GIS CARTOGRAPHY. Nicolás Martelli M. **JOURNALIST.** Juan Jaeger C. **TRANSLATOR.** Pamela Avalos P.
GUIDES. Marcelo Noria U., Rodrigo Díaz C., Álvaro Jaime C. and Michael Dubois. **EDITOR.** Eduardo Plaza A.

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES: Mapping of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) 2017 Census; Road maps – General Water Director (DGA) of the Ministry of Public Works (MOP); Digital terrain model from satellite images of the Alos Palsar project (relief) – National System of Wilderness Protection Areas (SNASPE) of the CONAF; Private protected areas – (various sources); International boundary – Department of State Frontiers and Boundaries (DIFROL); Various thematic layers of the GORE Magallanes geoportal, information contained in previous maps (SERNATUR, Willett, CONAF, among others).

THIERRY-DUPRADOU