

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

30th November-13th December 2020 (14 days)

CHILE

Pumas and penguins in Patagonia

"superb...
so impressed,
Patagonia is a must!"
Chile 2016

A fantastic journey through some of South America's most spectacular scenery, home to rare and endangered wildlife.

Southern Patagonia is renown for its landscape and the **Torres del Paine National Park** is often described as 'Chile's prized jewel'. Many photographs on travel guides show its stunning granite 'towers' over snow-covered slopes. It is an area of rolling steppes, glassy lakes, bare rock, 'electric blue' glaciers and beech forests. The diversity of habitats is high for such a southerly region. The area is home to grazing guanacos and more than 100 species of birds, such as parakeets and flamingos. It is, perhaps, most famous for its population of Puma, with a strong breeding population living in areas where they can be watched, if time and care are taken. The Park and its wildlife are of high conservation value with all activities regulated and eco tourism is of great value.

In addition to our time in Torres del Paine, we visit the island of Tierra del Fuego to see the largest mainland colony of King Penguins and explore the famous Straits of Magellan for its abundant marine life. With time to visit the high Andes near Santiago and discover some of Chile's fascinating history and culture, this trip gives a good introduction to the country as well as providing an opportunity to see some iconic mammals and birds accompanied by one of Chile's top wildlife guides.



Price
£tbc

Single Room Supplement
£tbc

Full board

Day 1 depart London
Day 2 Santiago, Farellones
Day 3 Santiago P, Arenas
Day 4-8 Torres del Paine
Day 9 Straits of Magellan
Day 10 Tierra del Fuego
Day 11 Pali Aike
Day 12 Punta Arenas
Day 13 depart Santiago
Day 14 arrive UK

Leaders

to be confirmed

mammals, birds, natural
history, culture,
spectacular scenery



Wildlife and culture holidays

Our profits are donated to the **Wildlife Trusts**



Focus of Interest

This is one of our 'Easy birding and wildlife' trips which means that the itinerary is based mainly on birds and/or other animals (rather than plants or general wildlife) and this also reflects the knowledge of the leaders and guides. A key aspect of this trip will be spending time trying to find Puma in Torres del Paine, as well as other mammals. However, as with all of our trips, the pace is comfortable with time to enjoy other aspects of the natural history.



Leader and Guides

An experienced Wildlife Travel leader will accompany the group. Our tour is being organised by **Far South Expeditions** who are based in Punta Arenas, Chile. Their guides lead natural history tours throughout Chile, including our seven previous trips to the country.

Itinerary

The itinerary may change to suit practicalities or at the discretion of the leaders.

Day 1 An evening flight takes us from London via Amsterdam to Santiago in central Chile, arriving **Day 2**. From the airport, we will visit the famous **Viña Concha y Toro**, located in the Maipo Valley. This winery is one of the oldest in Chile, and we will visit the famous 'Casillero del Diablo', the Devil's Cellar that has given its name to one of their most familiar wine. Night at Hotel Galerias, Santiago.

Day 3 We will have a morning visit to **Rio Clarillo** nature reserve, near to the city, for our first introduction to the flora and fauna of Chile. In the afternoon, we fly from Santiago to Punta Arenas in the far south of Patagonia. Night at Hotel Diego de Almagro, Punta Arenas.

Day 4 Our day is spent travelling north to the famous **National Park of Torres del Paine** with plenty of stops on the way to take in the stunning landscapes and explore the variety of habitats from lagoons, small woodlands, and steppe grasslands, for which the area is famous. Night at Hotel Las Torres, Torres del Paine.

Days 5 to 7 We have three days to explore the Park for sightings of **Puma**. On our travels we will find other interesting and iconic species of the region including Guanaco, Humboldt's Hog-nosed Skunk, Big Hairy Armadillo and Chilla Fox, along with birds such as Darwin's Rhea, Chilean Flamingo, Andean Condor and Austral Rail. We are likely to spend early mornings and evenings on puma watching. The walking is not too strenuous and patience is almost certainly to be rewarded with some good photographic opportunities. Nights at Hotel Las Torres.

Day 8 We make our way back to Punta Arenas, with further chances of discovering more wildlife along the way. Night at Hotel Diego de Almagro, Punta Arenas.

Day 9 Our journey continues with a ferry trip to Tierra del Fuego (approx. 2 hrs) departing from Tres Puentes. During the crossing we will look out for Humpback Whales, Commerson's and Peale's Dolphins, Black-browed Albatross and Chilean Skua.



At Useless Bay we visit the largest mainland colony of King Penguin. Our day finishes at the remote Hostería Yendegaia, Porvenir, an area with great historic significance and ideal as a base for wildlife watching.

Day 10 Our day will be spent exploring the iconic landscapes and unique moorland and wetland habitats of Tierra del Fuego including Laguna Verde and the Baquedano Hills. We will look for birds such as Magellanic Plover, Coscoroba Wwan, Southern Silvery Grebe, Rufous-chested Dotterel and both Ashy-headed and Ruddy-headed Goose. Night at Hostería Yendegaia, Porvenir.

Day 11 We return by ferry to the mainland and then visit Pali Aike National Park, a desolate volcanic area. Night at Hotel Diego de Almagro, Punta Arenas.

Day 12 Morning excursion in Punta Arenas, lunch and afternoon flight to Santiago. Night at Hotel Galerías, Santiago.

Day 13 Free time in the morning before lunch at our hotel and then we return to the airport for our flight home.

Day 14 Arrival to UK.

Extending your holiday

Chile is a fantastic country, well worth spending more time in. If you would like to extend your holiday to take in some of the other highlights of this friendly country, from the Atacama desert to Easter Island, please speak to us. Our local guides are able to offer several itineraries for individuals or small groups.

Accommodation, meals, transport and weather

At Torres del Paine, we stay at the Hosteria Las Torres, of a high standard and situated at the foot of the mountain. On Tierra del Fuego, our base is the very good Hostería Yendegaia in Porvenir. Single accommodation is available at all locations, and all rooms have private en suite facilities. Food will be a mixture of local and international dishes, all of a good standard. Land transport will be by minibus. A range of weather is expected. In central Chile it is likely to be sunny, warm/hot, and dry, but colder on our trip up into the Andes. In the south the weather can be mixed but we expect it to be mostly dry and, hopefully, sunny. It can be windy and cold at times. We will adapt our itinerary and will not walk far in very hot, cold or windy conditions.



Fitness and health

No strenuous walking is involved but you need to have a **reasonable level of general fitness**. Most of the walks are not long (perhaps a couple of hours), but we will sometimes walk on **rough ground**. There are a few occasions when we walk uphill but this is not excessive. General inoculations for travel are recommended. We do not visit malaria/yellow fever areas.

Passports and Visas

You must have a valid passport for this trip (valid for at least 6 months after the end of the holiday). Temporary tourist visas are issued on arrival in Chile for holders of UK/EU passports. For holders of other passports please check with the relevant embassy.

Flights

Group flights are from London Heathrow with KLM: 2020 times are likely to be similar to 2019, as follows:

30th Nov Departs Heathrow 17.50, arrives Amsterdam 20.10
Departs Amsterdam 21.20, arrives Santiago 11.10 (1st)
12th Dec Departs Santiago 12.45, arrives Amsterdam 09.45 (13th)
13th Dec Departs Amsterdam 11.40, arrives Heathrow 12.05

Chile is four hours behind the UK: Amsterdam is one hour ahead.

It is also possible to fly from other regional airports, including Manchester, Bristol and Edinburgh: ask us about options.



TO BOOK

Contact us to check availability and reserve a place. Complete the Booking Form and send to Sunvil Holidays (CAA-ATOL Licence 808, ABTA V6218), our tour operator, with your deposit. All details about booking are given in the Booking Pack.

**DEPOSIT PER PERSON £1200, SECOND INSTALLMENT ON
CONFIRMATION OF HOLIDAY £1200.
BALANCE DUE BY 31/08/2020**

INCLUDED: Return flights from the UK, including airport taxes. Local transport as specified in itinerary including domestic flights within Chile and ferries/boat trips. 11 night's accommodation, full board basis (picnic lunches). Services of leader and local guide.

NOT INCLUDED: Drinks with evening meals, refreshments. Entrance fees during any optional sightseeing. Gratuities. Travel insurance.

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

**The Manor House, Broad Street,
Great Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6DH**



Tel: **01954 713575** email: **wildlifetravel@wildlifebcn.org**
www.wildlife-travel.co.uk

*Directors: Christine Donnelly, Brian Eversham, Philip Precey, Michael Russell, Dr Tim Upson
Wildlife Travel Ltd. Reg. No 2237697; (for Registered charity numbers please contact us)*

Photos: Front Puma (Far South Expeditions), *Calceolaria uniflora*, King Penguins, Torres del Paine (all Philip Precey) **Inside** Puma, Guanaco, Puma, 'the Towers' of Torres del Paine, Magellanic Penguin (all FSE), *Gavilea littoralis*, *Anathrophyllum desideratum*, Magellanic Woodpecker, Humboldt's Hog-nosed Skunk, Chilla Fox (all PP). **Back** Austral Negrito, Big Hairy Armadillo, Yellow-bridled Finch (all PP)