

Our Vision

The Patagonia Project promotes responsible travel and sustainable conservation within Patagonia's national parks by creating partnerships between volunteers, park managers, visitors, communities, non-profit organizations and businesses.



How to Support the Patagonia Project

Volunteers can join us for an unforgettable adventure in Torres del Paine.

Supporters can make donations to purchase materials, hire more park rangers, provide scholarships for Chilean volunteers, and encourage educational programs to help local communities benefit from ecotourism.

Businesses can contribute or discount equipment or services.

We invite you to join us.

For additional information, contact:

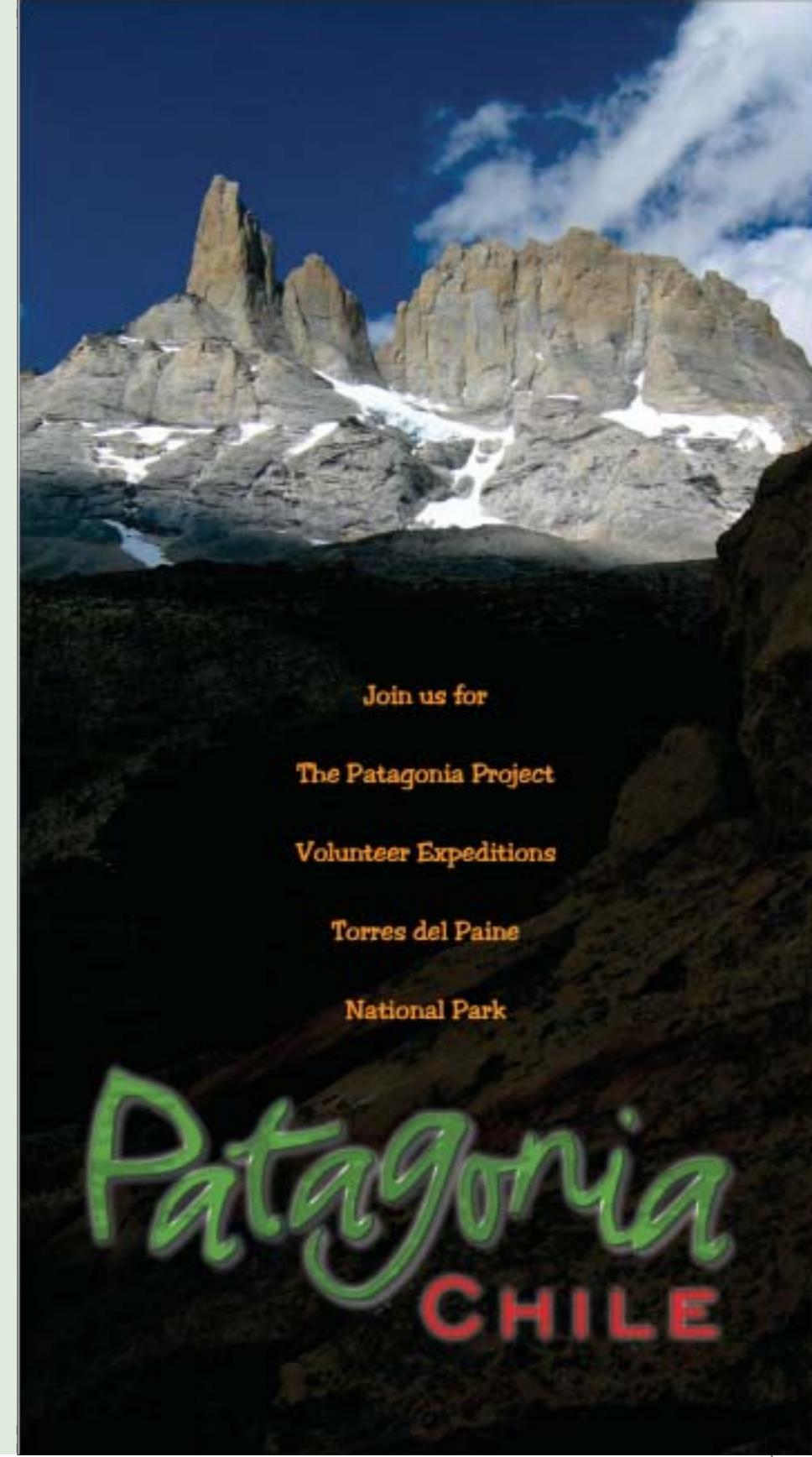
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From Punta Arenas along the historic Straits of Magellan, volunteers travel north to Puerto Natales. Here volunteers enjoy Chilean hospitality and obtain final equipment and supplies before reaching Torres del Paine, the crown jewel of Chile's national park system.

“Never doubt that a small group of concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead



Join us for
The Patagonia Project
Volunteer Expeditions
Torres del Paine
National Park

Patagonia
CHILE



Welcome to Torres del Paine

Rising from the flat steppes with breathtaking abruptness, the craggy mountains of Torres del Paine in southern Patagonia are an astonishing sight. The crown jewel of Chile's national parks and an International Biosphere Reserve, Torres del Paine is considered one of the world's greatest wildernesses.

Commitment to Conservation

But with this recognition, increasing numbers of visitors have caused unintended problems:

- Overused trails lead to soil erosion and poor water quality.
- Visitors overwhelm campsites with no sanitation facilities.
- Wildlife is harmed as visitors find their own way through sensitive habitats.
- Local communities that could benefit from sustainable tourism are bypassed, providing limited incentive for locals to support park protection.

Only a partnership commitment from volunteers, park managers, visitors, communities, nonprofit organizations and business is sufficient to conserve park resources for present and future generations.



PATAGONIA



Integrating Nature, Culture and Communities



What would I do?

Volunteers spend a week completing a variety of projects that may include trail maintenance and relocation, construction of primitive backcountry toilets, or improvements to wildlife habitat. After a day of fieldwork, you can relax with new friends over a hot meal. Time will be provided for day hikes to surrounding areas. Volunteers may extend their visit to Torres del Paine or arrange for adventures to other Patagonia destinations.

What will it cost?

Although volunteers will pay their own travel and lodging expenses, contributions and business support are expected to keep total expenses to a minimum. Trip costs may be tax deductible; check with your tax advisor.

Why is the USDA Forest Service involved?

The Forest Service promotes sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation internationally, providing technical support and leadership for protected area management worldwide.