



Patagonia Pumas 2

Photographic tour with tour leaders Danny Green & Pablo Cersosimo

8th - 20th June 2027

Trip Overview

Group size:

The trip accommodates a maximum of 7 guests.

Due to the nature of the trip we will have to take an interim payment of £1500 on the 30th September 2026 and the amount will be deducted off your final balance.

Cost includes:

All transportation, local guiding, accommodation, meals and estancia permits.

Cost excludes:

International and domestic flights to and from Punta Arenas (precise recommended schedules will be advised once available for booking), sundry items and alcohol. Tips for local guides which we recommend being \$15 per day per person. Total \$105 for the trip. Personal travel insurance.



Trip Overview

Accommodation:

Our accommodation throughout will be comfortable hotels. Rooms are on a twin basis, but single supplements are available on request.

Fitness Level:

This is an active trip, so a good level of fitness is required. Some days might involve a significant degree of walking, and the ground will be uneven, potentially snowy. We aren't talking serious mountain climbing but this is not a highly sedentary trip and will be active in its nature while we look for and follow pumas (although there are some long drives involved on occasions too).

LEVEL 4 - 5

Trip Overview

At Natures Images, we are always keeping an open mind for new destinations and subjects that can materialise and we pride ourselves on finding those perfect opportunities to make them work for a trip and then tweaking them as we go along to make the very best out of the species or location. A few years ago, Pumas were becoming more approachable and accessible for photographers and film makers to get close enough too for getting images of this elusive cat. Throughout its range in North and South America, Pumas or as their other common name of Mountain Lions are virtually impossible to see in the wild, but not at this fantastic location. We started to run trips to this corner of Patagonia over ten years ago and it has been amazing to see how quickly these elusive cats have transformed and are now much more reliable and approachable they have become. Patagonia is simply a dream location to experience the real wildness and offer some dramatic wildlife photography. Our focus for this trip is very much on the resident puma population of a private estancia that borders Torres del Paine National Park. We will be working with some of the best local trackers that have been involved in the recent BBC coverage of these magnificent animals here. Our sole aim for this trip is the Pumas and without doubt the best place to see and photograph them is on a private estancia that borders the national park. Most of our competitors only spend a couple of days here as it is expensive as they limit the number of people that can visit each day and then spend the rest of the time in the national park where it is extremely difficult to see this majestic cat. We have secured access here for the full duration of this trip and the population of Pumas here are amazingly tolerant to people and so close encounters whilst we are on foot are a very real possibility. You can see Pumas all year round here, but we are deliberately early in the season for the opportunity to photograph them in the snow.

This is a truly fantastic opportunity to experience this wonderful Cat with such close encounters in this dramatic corner of South America. Without doubt one of the best trips that we do.



Itinerary

Day 1: Flights will leave Europe in the evening for our long journey to Santiago in Chile. Full flight details/recommendations will be advised nearer the time.

Day 2: After an early arrival in Santiago, we will then spend the day in a local airport hotel to relax and in the evening, we will have dinner and discuss the plans for the trip ahead.

Day 3: After an early breakfast at the airport hotel, we will then head to the airport to take a domestic flight to Punta Arenas the southernmost city in Chile. On arrival we will be met by our local guides to transfer us to Puerto Natales, this drive will take around 3 hours with a stop along the way. The drive is a scenic one, taking us into the Southern Andes, with fertile valleys and perennial snow-covered peaks. In Puerto Natales we will check into a local hotel and have an evening dinner at a local restaurant.



Itinerary

Days 4 - 10: After an early breakfast we will then head to the private estancia that borders the Torres del Paine National Park. This will take around an hour's drive. With a packed lunch for the day, we will arrive before sunrise to look for signs of Puma activity as these beautiful cats will be our main target throughout our stay here and we will follow this pattern over each of these seven full days to really maximise our chances of not just encounters, but special ones too. We will be exploring the Estancia in 4x4 vehicles, trying to spot Pumas along the way sometimes they will be close to the tracks but other times at a distance where we have to approach on foot, in different parts of the estancia but utilising the services of our local trackers who work with pumas throughout the year so our chances are good and once we have discovered an individual or family it will be possible to try for a close encounter. We will need to be quiet and sensible in our approach here, but Puma's can be remarkably confiding mammals especially early in the season as we will be. Each day will almost certainly throw up other photographic opportunities in terms of dramatic landscapes that will be always around us and the chance of encounters with Guanaco, Patagonia Grey Fox as well as dramatic landscapes around every corner. Seven full days is the perfect amount of time to work with the Pumas, and we will look at what we have achieved throughout the trip and work towards a varied portfolio.

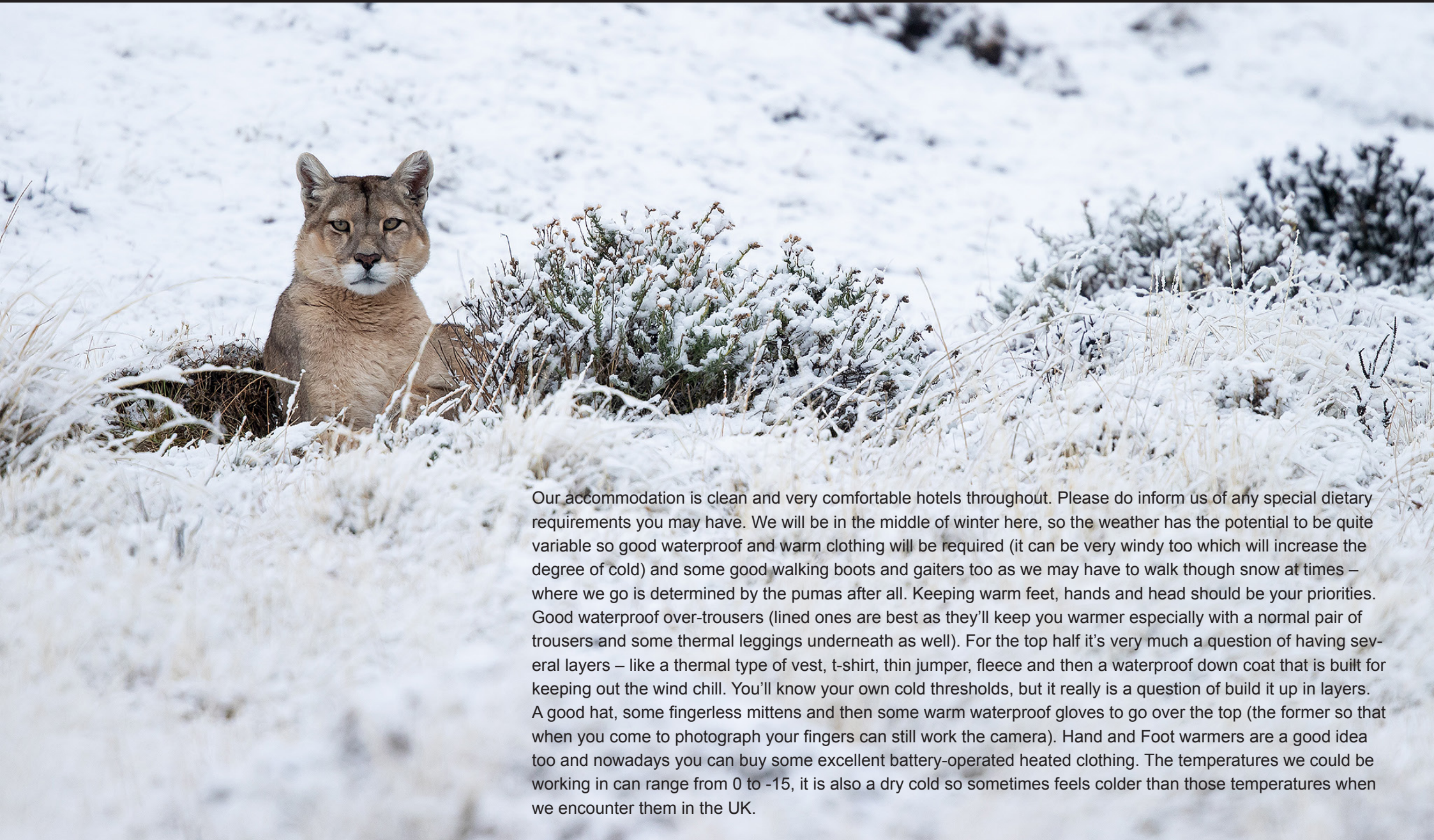
Day 11: We begin our long journey home today and after a leisurely breakfast we will head back to Punta Arenas for our domestic flight back to Santiago. We will again spend the night in the Airport hotel and enjoy our last evening dinner.

Day 12: We will have stayed near the airport in Santiago and so be on hand for the overnight flight back to the UK.

Day 13: Arrive back in UK/Europe.



Things to bring



Our accommodation is clean and very comfortable hotels throughout. Please do inform us of any special dietary requirements you may have. We will be in the middle of winter here, so the weather has the potential to be quite variable so good waterproof and warm clothing will be required (it can be very windy too which will increase the degree of cold) and some good walking boots and gaiters too as we may have to walk through snow at times – where we go is determined by the pumas after all. Keeping warm feet, hands and head should be your priorities. Good waterproof over-trousers (lined ones are best as they'll keep you warmer especially with a normal pair of trousers and some thermal leggings underneath as well). For the top half it's very much a question of having several layers – like a thermal type of vest, t-shirt, thin jumper, fleece and then a waterproof down coat that is built for keeping out the wind chill. You'll know your own cold thresholds, but it really is a question of build it up in layers. A good hat, some fingerless mittens and then some warm waterproof gloves to go over the top (the former so that when you come to photograph your fingers can still work the camera). Hand and Foot warmers are a good idea too and nowadays you can buy some excellent battery-operated heated clothing. The temperatures we could be working in can range from 0 to -15, it is also a dry cold so sometimes feels colder than those temperatures when we encounter them in the UK.

Camera equipment



In terms of camera gear then the longest lens you have will be needed (300mm with converter as a minimum really and 500mm + ideal) along with a tripod, although you will have a lot of walking to undertake so then you may prefer to use a monopod. You will want some shorter lenses for the array of landscape opportunities (70-200mm and 24-70mm say) but it's likely you will leave those in the vehicle when we start trekking for puma as the long lens will be sufficient for that or carry the smaller lenses and spare camera on a harness so you don't miss any opportunities along the way.

Useful Contact Information

Our contact numbers for the build up to and for the duration of the trip are:

Mark: +44 (0) 7951 945433

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Please don't hesitate to contact us even if you think it is a minor question, we're here to help.



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