



ECO CAMP patagonia

Exploring Patagonia's Wilderness in Harmony with Nature

Welcome to the EcoCamp Experience

We are very proud to present the latest edition of EcoCamp Patagonia as we celebrate over a decade of innovative, eco-friendly hospitality that has earned ISO 14001 certification.

Since we first opened our doors to adventurous travelers in 2000, we have had the satisfaction of enriching the lives of thousands of people who have visited us from all corners of the world. Guests have enjoyed our guided treks and wildlife excursions by day and good food & wine in our Community domes at night, before falling asleep gazing up at star-filled skies in their cozy sleeping quarters.

We have successfully experimented with the latest environmentally-friendly technology, staying loyal to our premise of taking comfort to the limits of what is sustainable. For this reason we resist using the concept of 'luxury' because we will always prioritise environmental stewardship over any amenities or

practices which could be detrimental to our surroundings. The luxury at EcoCamp is not leaving a footprint behind, something few can claim in today's world.

In this edition we present our new family vacations in loft-style domes and our new Micro Safari, an educative trail for independently discovering the flora and fauna highlights on EcoCamp's doorstep. Both products bring us closer to the educational role that must be played in today's critical environmental state.

Welcome back to EcoCamp Patagonia, we thank you for your continued support.



EcoCamp Founders



At the tip of the South American continent, EcoCamp Patagonia is situated in the heart of Torres del Paine National Park in Chilean Patagonia, with a unique view of the majestic Torres. EcoCamp is the first fully sustainable accommodation south of the Amazon and the first of its kind in the Patagonian wilderness.

EcoCamp construction began in 1999 and in 2000 we opened our cozy Eco-Dome doors to guests from across the world. In 2005 we proved the efficacy of EcoCamp's low-impact design when we moved to a new location within the park, leaving no tracks behind. By 2008 we were confident that our sustainable design could be upheld at a higher level of comfort and so we introduced new Suite Domes at EcoCamp. Two storey Quadruple Family Suite Domes were added in 2010.

EcoCamp can be seen as a prototype, contributing ideas and values to the preservation of the earth's natural reserves in today's globalized world, where misconstrued 'development' often triumphs over environmental protection. With our minimal human impact and successful implementation of eco-policies, we hope to not only inspire travelers but shape the future of the tourism industry in protected areas of wilderness.



ECOCAMP patagonia

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Patagonian Heritage

The basic premise in designing EcoCamp was to maintain the nomadic spirit of Patagonia's ancient Kaweskar inhabitants.

EcoCamp is a tribute to Kaweskar dwellings and way of life.





Patagonian Heritage



The Kaweskar were an ancient group of nomadic inhabitants in Patagonia. The name Kaweskar means 'human being' in their native language. They made no demands on natural resources as they traveled from place to place, setting up and dismantling their semi-circular huts built from simple materials, leaving no trace behind. To keep warm they lit fires inside the domes.

Kaweskar communities had no hierarchy and were formed by self-sufficient, independent families who married for love and practiced monogamy. They had an established moral and ethical code which involved a deep, spiritual relationship with God.

Happiness wasn't determined by material goods but the freedom of movement and nature's well-being.

Sadly, in a tale repeated across much of Latin America, by 1880 European settlers had arrived in Patagonia in their quest for gold, furs and wool and had displaced, slaughtered and brought disease to the Kaweskars, who became almost completely extinct by the 1920's.

EcoCamp is a tribute to Kaweskar dwellings and way of life and we have kept the essence of their dome homes by maintaining a simple nomadic design in the midst of natural surroundings.

Dining and relaxing at EcoCamp

Community Domes



Community Domes

At the heart of EcoCamp, Community Domes provide an inviting meeting place. Start the day with a hearty breakfast before heading off on a trekking adventure or wildlife exploration, then return to share an evening cocktail and a tasty Chilean dinner with fellow guests.

EcoCamp proudly prepares and serves Chilean cuisine each night, against the panoramic backdrop of the phenomenal granite towers. All food is locally sourced and prepared by chefs who were born and raised in Patagonia. Vegetarian and other dietary options are available. Carefully selected Chilean wine is served every night to accompany dishes.

There are three inter-connected Community Domes, all equipped with a low emission wood stove and connected to sleeping quarters by raised wooden walkways. Dining takes place in the two biggest Domes, each 9m/30ft in diameter and 4.5m/14.8ft tall. The domes are well-lit and airy with large windows and there is also a bar and resting space inside the domes to converse and share wine before and after dinner.



Community Domes



The third Community Dome is slightly smaller, 6m/19.5ft in diameter, and contains a shop and small library where guests can sit, read and relax. This dome is additionally used for briefings by guides, to show guests trekking maps and wildlife watching spots.



All of the Community Domes are surrounded by terraces, with ample space to sit, read, talk, do yoga and enjoy an aperitif. In summer, briefings are sometimes held outside on the terrace. There is also an 'asadero' platform, where Patagonian lamb barbecues are prepared by 'Baqueanos'.

Suite Domes





Wooden walkways connect domes

View of Paine Towers

Private terrace

Heated en-suite bathroom

Suite Domes

*E*coCamp caters to those looking to combine adventure and nature immersion with a more comfortable relaxed stay in the heart of Torres del Paine. Suite domes were designed for sleeping in the highest level of comfort allowed by sustainable development in a natural untarnished environment.

*S*uite Domes are comfortable 28m²/ 300 ft² tented igloo-type rooms built in the same shape as the ancient Kaweskar tribe dwellings. Their structure produces minimal environmental impact while providing an efficient thermal and wind resistant unit, with great exposure to nature in the most magnificent Patagonian setting. Guests can gaze at the stars through the ceiling windows while falling asleep each night, after enjoying a spectacular sunset from their private terrace.

*E*ach Suite Dome has comfortable double or twin beds, a private bathroom with a state of the art composting toilet and a modern low-emission wood stove. Electricity is very limited inside the domes, meaning hairdryers are not permitted, but laptops and cameras can be charged.

Suite Domes



INSIDE THE DOMES

Suite Domes have everything clients need for a comfortable stay:

- Generous space of 28m²/ 300 ft²
- Open terrace to sit, relax and admire the view
- Two single beds (1.05 x 2m / 3'9" x 6'6" beds) or a king size bed (2 x 2 m/ 6'2" x 6'6")
- Decoration made of natural fibers and other elements from Chilean and Patagonian cultures
- Comfortable sofas for reading and resting
- Enclosed porch to hang heavy and wet clothing
- Modern low-emission wood stove
- Fully equipped bathroom with composting toilet chamber
- Propane heater in bathroom

"We loved our Suite Dome, it was a welcoming retreat in the middle of the wilderness, spacious yet cozy and with its own fireplace. It was the perfect base to come home to at the end of a day's wildlife safari excursion. The view of the Torres at sunset, with a delicious glass of wine on our balcony, was one of those once-in-a-lifetime moments you don't want to miss."



Carol & Jeff Holmes,
from San Francisco,
California

Standard Domes



"I managed to fulfill my goal of completing the tough 9 day circuit tour, an experience enhanced by my cozy stay in an EcoCamp Standard Dome at the start and finish of the trek. A sanctuary in the wilderness at the foot of Torres del Paine, with good food and conversation between like-minded hikers.

- What more could a trekker ask for?"



Andreas Brandhuber,
from Munich,
Germany



Standard Domes

The 10m²/108ft² Standard Dome was the world's first geodesic hotel room, and soon became the staple design model for other dome hotels that arrived years later in Europe, Argentina and other locations in Chile.

Standard domes have a 3.6m/12ft diameter wooden floor and are 2.4m/8ft tall, allowing two people to sleep and stand comfortably inside. They are resistant to the strongest Patagonian winds, rains, and snow, and come equipped with two single beds (doubles on request), very cozy fleece blankets, feather quilts and organic elements for decoration. There are round windows in the ceiling to look at the stars.

Guests staying in Standard Domes use a shared bathroom, for several environmental reasons – minimising constructed areas, controlling water and heating consumption and collecting waste in a central heated composting chamber.



Bathroom interior



Bathroom exterior



Dome exterior

Superior Domes

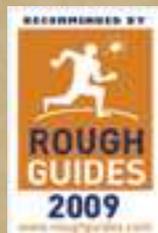
Spacious, comfortable and equipped with private bathrooms, Superior Domes are the optimum choice for trekkers wanting that bit more space and comfort at the end of a long day's walk. Guests can fall asleep looking up at the star-lit sky from their cozy bed and wonder at nature's immensity as they hear the wind hurtling outside.

Each Superior Dome has comfortable queen-size or twin beds, a propane heater and a private bathroom with a sophisticated composting toilet. Electricity is very limited inside the domes, meaning hairdryers are not permitted, but laptops and cameras can be charged.

INSIDE THE DOMES:

Superior Domes have everything clients need for a comfortable stay:

- Spacious 23 mt² / 250 ft² area
- Comfortable Queen-size or twin beds
- Decoration made of natural fibers
- Propane heater in bedroom
- Private fully-equipped bathroom
- State of the art composting toilet



Family-friendly



www.ecocamp.travel

Families are welcome at EcoCamp

We strongly believe that outdoor activities are to be shared among all family members, creating strong bonds through healthy activities and opening up youngster's minds to nature's immensity. Torres del Paine's flora and fauna ranks among nature's top treats on earth, to be enjoyed by children & adults alike.

EcoCamp has two double-storey 3.7/12ft tall and 28m²/300 ft² quadruple domes that can be adapted to fit a family of up to 4 members. Alternatively, parents can enjoy spacious Suite Domes while kids sleep nearby in their own Standard Dome, enjoying the adventure of sleeping alone in a cozy dome in Patagonia.



We hike here with our own families and we invite guests to do likewise.

Explore the Immensity

Ecocamp treks have gained international recognition for guides' intimate knowledge and high-quality adventure services in the Patagonian wilderness. Our guides take guests on an unforgettable experience through the prime locations in Torres del Paine National Park, exploring the park's nooks and crannies leading to pristine forests, lakes, rivers, breathtaking views of glaciers and exquisite wildlife.

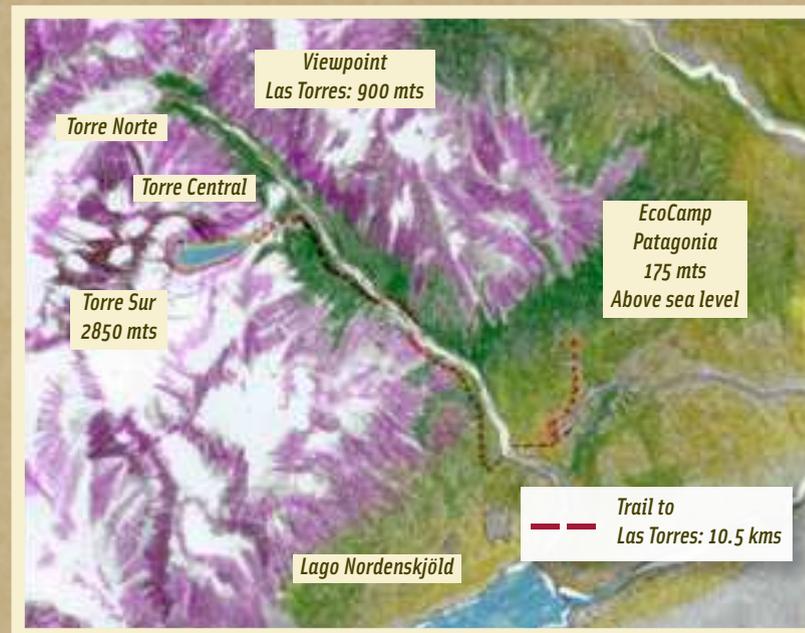




Trekking at the World's End

Torres del Paine NP (Chile)

EcoCamp is located at the foot of las Torres del Paine, with a spectacular view of the formidable granite peaks. The uniqueness of EcoCamp's location, right in the heart of the park in Estancia Cerro Paine, allows the park's spectacular mountain formations, forests, glaciers, rivers, fjords, flora and fauna to be enjoyed on EcoCamp's doorstep. No journey time is needed - Guests wake up with the view of las Torres everyday and begin trekking from their front door, returning on foot to enjoy sunset from the park's heartland.



Trekking at the World's End



W Trek



EcoCamp's team of specialist guides take trekkers on an unforgettable experience along one of the world's most classic trekking routes. Groups head from EcoCamp along Los Cuernos Pass and through French Valley in the heart of the Paine massif before reaching the impressive Grey Lake and Grey Glacier. Back at EcoCamp trekkers are in the perfect place to join the path leading through Ascencio Valley up towards the Towers themselves, for an unbeatable view. EcoCamp hosts travelers for the majority of their 5 day (60km/37mi) or 7 day (76/47mi) trek, with mountain huts providing good quality food and comfortable beds the other nights.

Paine Circuit



EcoCamp runs its own separate operation just for the co-ordination of the challenging 9 day Circuit. On one of the most awe-inspiring hiking routes in the world, trekkers are led from EcoCamp to Dickson Lake and onto the famous John Gardner Pass with its striking view of Grey Glacier and the immense Southern Patagonian Ice field. The 115 kms/72 mile anti-clockwise circuit is the perfect adventure for trekkers who crave the ultimate challenge in Torres del Paine. Guides accompany trekkers through the ever-changing terrain, while luggage is transported by porters who cook and pitch tents for the group at campsites, leaving trekkers free to unwind and prepare for the next day's challenge.

Wildlife Encounters

The Torres del Paine, crowning the park's landscape, were formed by the remains of a huge granite cirque that was sheared away by the forces of glacial ice some 12 million years ago.

This spectacular region, lined with eight beautiful lakes, three glacial rivers, two giant waterfalls, fields of flowers and ancient forests, is home to EcoCamp's very own Wildlife Safari, taking guests on a once-in-a-lifetime experience through spectacular natural panoramas, exquisite flora and fauna including migrating geese, herds of guanacos, flocks of rheas and soaring condors.



Micro Safari



Small is beautiful!

The Micro Safari is a self-guided educational trail designed by EcoCamp, inviting guests to learn more about the park's flora and fauna right next to their domes. No guide is needed on this micro exploration and guests can freely wander along the trail and take note of the diverse vegetation and fauna.



Wildlife Encounters



EcoCamp Wildlife Safari



This unique multi-day trip created by EcoCamp takes guests through the park's exquisite flora and fauna by day and gives them the opportunity to enjoy EcoCamp Suite Domes or Standard Domes by night. The Wildlife Safari is perfect for families, individuals and couple of all ages, who can opt for easy or active excursions depending on their preference that day. Easy excursions include trips to Blue Lagoon, Condor viewpoint, sailing to Grey Glacier, walking along the Fauna Trail and the Botanical Safari Trail, while active excursions include hiking the Pingo Trail, French Valley and the Towers.

In Torres del Paine there are 15 species of mammals and the most commonly seen are the guanaco (Lama Guanicoe), the Chilla and Culpeo foxes and the Patgonian skunk. The huemul (Andean deer) and the puma (cougar) are less often sighted. Birdlife is abundant, with over 115 species recorded including the blackbird, coot, dotterel, duck, finch, goose, grebe, hawk, sparrow, swan, teal, woodpecker, wren and the Andean condor with its wingspan of up to 3.2 metres.

The vegetation of the pampa mainly consists of small spiky bushes and shrubs like the edible calafate. Bunch grasses, housing small delicate flowers and fragile plants, also cover the land while dense lenga forests line the park's gorges.

EcoCamp's lifelong commitment to Sustainability

EcoCamp has created and designed domes which are 100% sustainable and leave no trace when moved.

"Making EcoCamp environmentally sustainable was our unwavering priority. As kayakists, Javier Lopez and I had seen the beauty and fragility of nature as our beloved Bío Bío river was dammed. In addition my wife Nani Astorga is very protective of nature and a lover of the earth, animals and all things organic. The combination ensured we were committed to green technology and sustainable design from the outset".

Yerko Ivelic, EcoCamp Founder



EcoCamp's lifelong commitment to Sustainability

PROPANE HEATER

- Used for heating water, in the kitchen and heating superior domes;

SKYLIGHT WINDOWS

- Allows guests to follow natural light patterns;
- Star gazing potential at night;
- Utilize natural light, saving electricity;

ENERGY SOURCE

- EcoCamp uses Solar panels to obtain 40% of its energy and a micro-hydro turbine to obtain 60%;
- In summer Patagonia receives up to 17 hours of sunlight making solar energy a powerful source;

COMPOSTING CHAMBER

- World's southern-most composting device, and the first in the hotel industry in the whole of Patagonia and Chile;
- Heated to ensure bacteria remains active;
- Liquids and solids separated, and solid waste composted;



RECYCLING SPACE

- Separation at the source: organic, metals, paper, glass and dangerous or toxic materials;
- Removal of all non-organic materials;
- Organic material fed to neighbouring pig farm;

RENEWABLE MATERIALS

- Pinewood from plantations;
- Furniture made of wicker;
- All ben linen, rugs and curtains made from natural fibres;

THICK, INSULATED WALLS

- Outer PVC waterproof layer and thick polyester insulation cushion;
- Organic fibre fire-treated interior walls;
- Galvanized iron geodesic structure to withstand wind stress;

PORTABLE

- Maintains nomadic spirit of Kaweskars;
- Whole camp relocated in 2005 within park, without leaving trace;

SEMI-SPHERICAL STRUCTURE

- Minimizes external surface area and temperature exchange through walls;
- Ensures uniform distribution of wind stress;
- Maximum internal space for given outer surface area;

WOOD STOVE

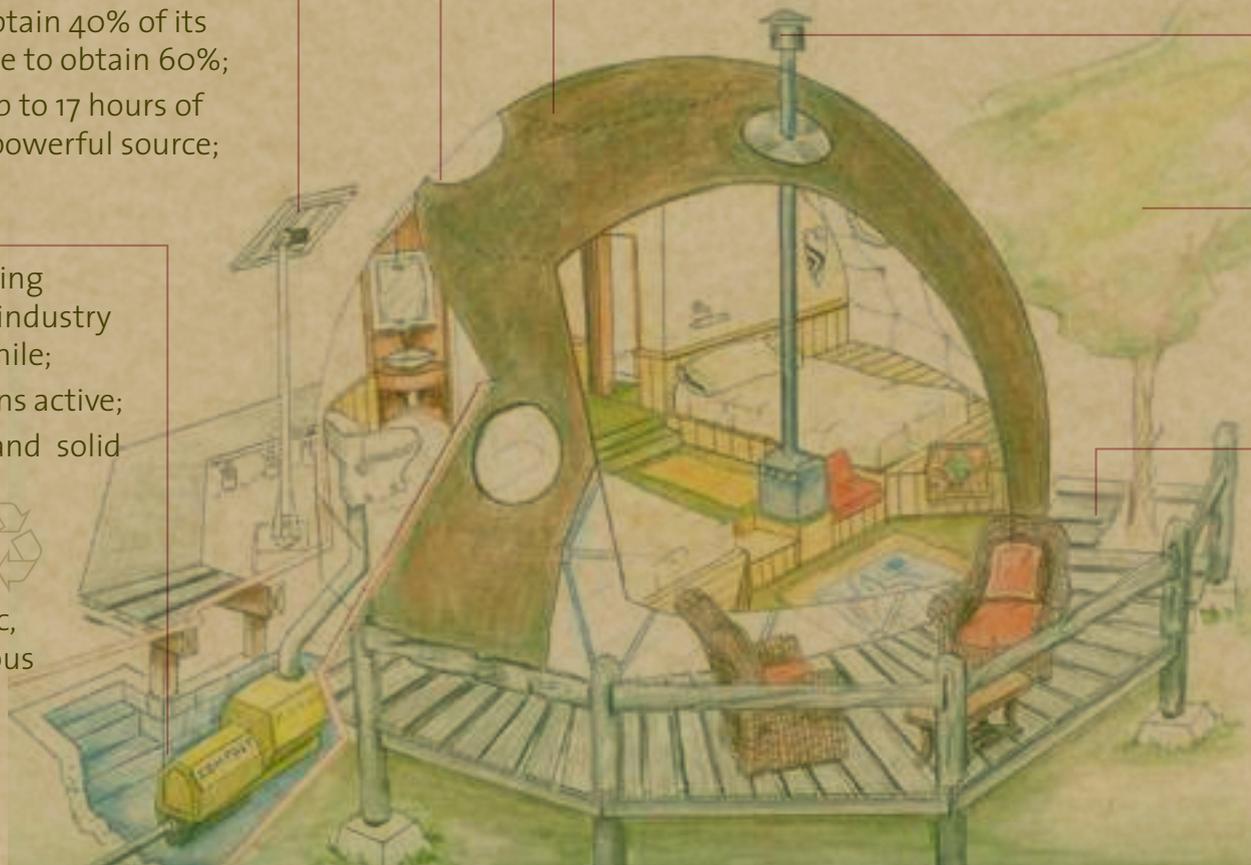
- Prevents use of diesel fuels and recycles fallen wood;

HARMONIOUS EXTERIOR

- Green exterior to blend into environment;
- Limited height to ensure natural fusion;

RAISED PLATFORM & OPEN WALKWAYS

- Minimizes foundations and excavations and further terrain disruption;
- Animals can roam around freely and walk underneath;
- Winds circulate underneath clearing humidity;
- Guests exposed to the elements as they walk between domes;



Sketch By EcoCamp Founder Javier Lopez

EcoCamp's lifelong commitment to Sustainability

EcoCamp's commitment to environmental sustainability has been internationally recognised and its reputation as an innovator of green technology confirmed. Guests can learn about the complexities of the eco-system and EcoCamp's sustainability practices by chatting to staff, reading the information available in domes and observing the eco-friendly features on-site.



Green Awards and Certification



ISO 14001

EcoCamp's Environmental Management System has been certified by SGS as complying with ISO 14001 standards. We are the first hotel in Chile and the only hotel in Patagonia to have received this recognition.



ISO 9001

EcoCamp has been certified by SGS as complying with ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems, ensuring the highest standards of management principles are met.



Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Awards

In 2009 EcoCamp was highly commended in Virgin's Responsible Tourism Awards. The judges praised EcoCamp for "sitting at the cutting edge of environmental practice with the design and creation of their innovative 4 star geodesic dome tented hotel...".



Carbon Offset Emission

In 2008 EcoCamp became carbon neutral. In 2009 we received a certificate from the Carbon Fund for offsetting 135.07 tons of CO₂ emissions and in 2010 for offsetting 183.68 tons between July 2009 and June 2010.

EcoCamp's lifelong commitment to Sustainability



Local Involvement



At EcoCamp we operate with a high level of local involvement, despite being based in the wilderness. 90% of our staff (guides, cooks, assistants, maintenance, drivers, housekeepers and administration) are from neighbouring town Puerto Natales or closest city Punta Arenas. All of our food is locally sourced and bought from nearby farm suppliers and vegetables are purchased from local greenhouses. We hire horses from local farmers and buy most of our handicrafts and decoration from local artisanal markets. EcoCamp's general manager is an active member of the Camara Comercio in nearby hamlet Cerro Castillo, helping small entrepreneurs export their tourist services.

Wildlife Protection



EcoCamp Patagonia supports Refugio Animal Cascada, a nature sanctuary in Cajon del Maipo mountain valley close to Santiago. The sanctuary's founder and coordinator is environmental steward Nani Astorga, co-founder of EcoCamp Patagonia. The refuge provides a rehabilitation centre for native animals and contributes to environmental education in the local community. To date the centre has received over 200 animals, from birds and mammals to reptiles and amphibians. <http://www.refugioanimalcascada.cl>

We are EcoCamp



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Welcome to our humble home!

Our Ecocamp team is an energetic mix of guides, cooks, assistants, maintenance staff, drivers, housekeepers and administrators, mainly from the neighbouring town of Puerto Natales (180km) or Punta Arenas (330km). Their hardworking and positive attitude ensures service levels for both guests and the environment are of the highest quality.

Sebastián Gómez

General Manager of EcoCamp

Sebastian has been managing EcoCamp since 2007, enjoying the quality of Patagonian life and the peacefulness of the park: "I like being connected so closely to nature and reminded on a daily basis of what's really important in this world. I'm proud of EcoCamp's team work, communication and shared responsibility to protect the environment."



EcoCamp founders in front of Mount Fitzroy

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We are EcoCamp

Front Stage:

Front of house we have our superstar guides, the majority of whom are locals who have grown up breathing fresh Patagonian air. Just like Eduardo Tapia, born and bred in the Patagonian countryside, an engineer specializing in geology and ornithology who has been working as a Torres del Paine guide since he was 17. Our guides are all fun-loving, environmentally-conscious trekking enthusiasts who love their job. They can be counted on for knowledge, reliability and entertainment.

Front of house we also have our specialists chefs, born and raised in Patagonia, taking guests through the diverse ingredients on the menu each night.

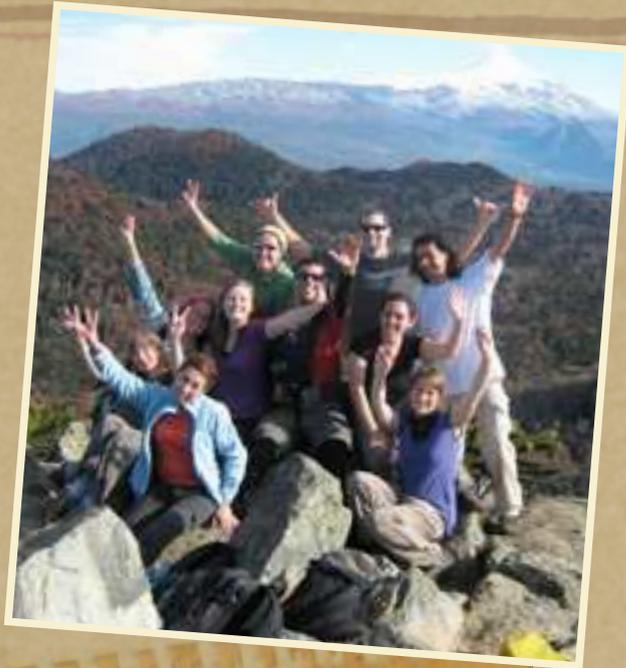


Behind the Scenes:

Back of house we have a very friendly team making sure our clients seamlessly enjoy their time at EcoCamp. Our housekeepers and maintenance staff ensure domes are in tip-top shape at all times. Our friendly welcoming staff in Puerto Natales and our responsible drivers ensure a smooth arrival and departure.



We are EcoCamp



I wanted to get away from everything familiar and give my head an opportunity to clear itself. I didn't know just how effective this would be. Not having data or voice communications, taking myself out of familiar environments, away from familiar faces - both providing comfort but also contributing to poisonous routines- spending so much time alone and with the new friends I had made, the physical challenges taking away any opportunity for stray thoughts.... For 9 days, I lost track of time, thought about nothing but the here-and-now in the purest environment I have ever experienced. I returned back home with an entirely different perspective beyond the usual "vacation mode."

Sea Eun, New York City, USA,
18 Feb 2011

International Awards & Recognition



National Geographic Stay List

EcoCamp Patagonia featured in National Geographic's 2011 Stay List for the most authentic and sustainable hotels in South America



National Geographic Best Outfitter

Cascada Expediciones, owners of EcoCamp Patagonia, was rated as one of the Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth in 2008 and again in 2009



Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Awards

EcoCamp was highly commended in the Best in a mountain environment category in Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Awards 2009



Rough Guides

EcoCamp Patagonia was recommended by Rough Guides, leading publisher of travel information and accommodation



Trip Advisor

EcoCamp Patagonia was awarded a certificate of excellence by Trip Advisor in 2011. Check out our reviews online.

We are EcoCamp

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"The whole trip was an absolute joy. The booking process could not be easier, the information pack provided all the information necessary, the pick-up and transport to the park was very smooth, the guides were absolutely brilliant, the accommodation throughout was excellent and the food was good. I could not recommend your company highly enough. The whole trip left nothing to be desired."

Richard Verheul, Australia, 18 Jan 2010

"Our trip was fantastic, the highlight of our entire 3 weeks in South America. I would highly recommend this trip and your company to everyone. Thanks very much...."

Mark Davison, UK, 03 March 2010

Click here to read our Trip Advisor reviews

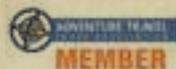




THE INTERNATIONAL ECOTOURISM SOCIETY (MEMBER):

TIES is a non-profit association, founded in 1990, committed to promoting responsible tourism practices that benefit conservation and communities.

www.ecotourism.org



ADVENTURE TRAVEL TRADE ASSOCIATION (MEMBER):

ATTA is a global network of responsible, profitable businesses, destinations & media who transform customers into advocates for sustainability and justice worldwide.

www.adventuretravel.biz



PURE (MEMBER):

PURE Life Experiences carefully selects and gathers the world's finest Private Travel Designers and Selected Suppliers from the exploding industry of Experiential Travel.

www.purelifeexperiences.com



LATIN AMERICAN TRAVEL ASSOCIATION (MEMBER):

LATA was founded to promote travel to Latin America. The association brings together over 200 companies, including tourist boards, tour operators, hotels, wholesalers, media, airlines and overseas members.

www.lata.org



ACTIVE TRAVEL LATIN AMERICA SPECIALISTS (MEMBER):

ATLAS is an association of reputable, experienced active-travel companies serving clients looking for high-energy fun on their Latin America getaway

www.atlasadventure.travel



TURISMO CHILE (MEMBER):

Turismo Chile joins the public and private sectors in the promotion of Chile as a tourism destination in international markets.

www.chile.travel



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EcoCamp Patagonia, Torres del Paine National Park, Chile is located:

Latitude: 50°57'46.95"S - Longitude: 72°51'49.80"O - Elevation: 175m

1,984 km / 1,233 miles south from the Chile's capital, Santiago.

4,241 km / 2,635 miles south from Rio de Janeiro.

10,212 km / 6,346 miles from New York.

13,300 km / 8,264 miles from London.

16,897 km / 10,500 miles from Tokyo.

9,625 km / 5,980 miles from Sydney.

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank the Kusanovic family from Estancia Cerro Paine (www.lastorres.com) for their support in making the EcoCamp project possible from the very beginning. We also wish to thank our photographers Luis Hernan Herreros (www.visnu.cl), Leon Werdinger (www.ottertrack.com) and Kay Walsh (kaywalshphotography.com) who captured timeless photos of EcoCamp and the Torres del Paine landscape. We want to thank all the EcoCamp staff in Patagonia, especially our hardworking guides, and our office staff in Puerto Natales and Santiago. And, of course, we extend our thanks to all the guests who have visited us over the years and gone back home flying the EcoCamp flag.