

Our Park

Los Glaciares National Park is situated in the southwest of Santa Cruz province, Argentina. It covers an area of 726.927 hectares (2,807 sq. mi.) and was established to preserve a significant portion of southern Andes, glaciers, forests (Bosque Andino Patagónico) and steppe. **It is the largest park in Argentina's Protected Areas System.**

It was declared a UNESCO'S world heritage site in 1981.

Massive glaciers of incredible beauty such as **Perito Moreno, Upsala, Viedma** and **Spegazzini** are located inside LGNP.



© Cover: Florian von der Fecht

GLACIERS: ORIGIN AND FUNCTION

A **glaciation** is a period of long-term reduction in the temperature of the Earth's surface and atmosphere, resulting in the expansion of continental and polar ice sheets and glaciers. The largest ice sheet expansion took place one million years ago covering, in these latitudes, the south of Santa Cruz from the Andes to the Atlantic Ocean. Nevertheless, despite their impressiveness, ice sheets and glaciers nowadays are just the remains of past ice ages.

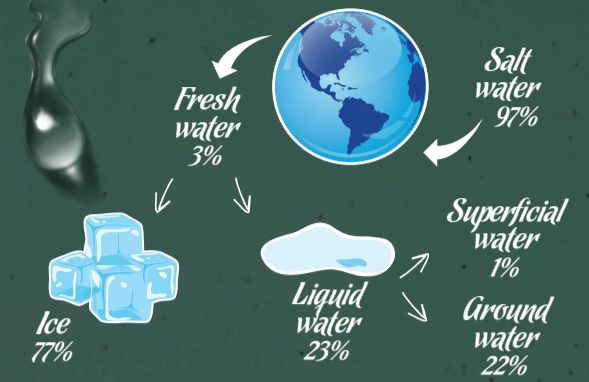
Glaciations in Patagonia

Glaciers change the Earth's topography with their erosive power. They reshape valleys and transport rocky materials. When they retreat, big depressions are carved by the weight of the ice and filled with melting water, thus forming large glacial lakes. Some of the glaciers in LGNP are easily accessible and are located in an area where the climate is more temperate than other areas with glaciers in our planet.

Water factory

Glaciers have two important roles:

- **They are a climate regulator:** they keep our planet cool by reflecting back 45 to 85 per cent of the sunlight.
- **They are an important freshwater reservoir:** only 3% of all water on our planet is fresh.



Ice field

After Antarctica, the southern Andes lodge the largest area covered by ice in this hemisphere. Within this vast area, an ice field of 12,500 sq. km (4,826 sq. m) shared by Argentina and Chile stands out: the **Southern Patagonian Ice Field**, starting point for many of the glaciers in the National Park.

- Length: **370 km / 230 mi.**
- Average width: **35 km / 21.75 mi.**
- **48 major glaciers**
- **More than 100 minor glaciers**



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IANIGLA (Argentine Institute of Snow, Glaciology and Environmental Sciences)

Did you know?

- LGNP** also has many glaciers which are not connected to the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. These are called «Peripheral glaciers». They are formed from the accumulation of snow on mountain tops.
- Perito Moreno glacier's** snout is as tall as the obelisk in Buenos Aires (67.5 m/221 ft.)
- The emissary glaciers flow into the **Ice Field** like magnificent ice sheets.
- Perito Moreno Glacier** (254 km²/98 sq. mi.) is a bit larger than Buenos Aires City (203 km²/78 sq. mi.)
- Viedma Glacier** (975 km²/376 sq. mi.) is the largest in Argentina and the second largest in South America.
- The **Southern Patagonian Ice field** is the third-largest ice field in our planet after **Antarctica** and **Greenland**.
- The elevation above sea level for **Argentino Lake** and **Perito Moreno Glacier** is only 177 meters/580 Ft.

Hippocamelus bisulcus

The Huemul

The huemul is a native deer that lives exclusively in the Andean-Patagonian forests of Argentina and Chile. In recent years its population has been reduced and isolated. It is, therefore, considered an **endangered species**. To guarantee its protection, it has been declared «**Natural monument**» by the Argentine Parliament. Our National Park protects the southernmost population of huemuls in Argentina. In order to preserve them, a protection and monitoring plan is carried out every year.

3405 meters

Cerro Fitz Roy or Chaltén*

It is the Andes' most prized peak for climbers. This mountain was a sacred place for the «Tehuelches», a group of indigenous peoples of Patagonia. Raising awareness of its importance is vital for its preservation as well as for the strengthening of local identity. *(Tehuelche language)

Recommendations

No pets allowed	Fishing permit required	Use latrines or toilets (toilet paper is garbage)	Avoid loud noises
Be careful, falling trees and branches	Do not use wood from forests as flamewood	Camp only in authorized places	Do not damage cultural resources
Make fire only in authorized places	Put the fire out completely before leaving the place	Do not pollute the water	If you smoke, do it in authorized places. Keep the cigarette ends
Do not feed the animals	Do not damage flora	Forbidden to use drones	Take rubbish with you



PARQUE NACIONAL LOS GLACIARES

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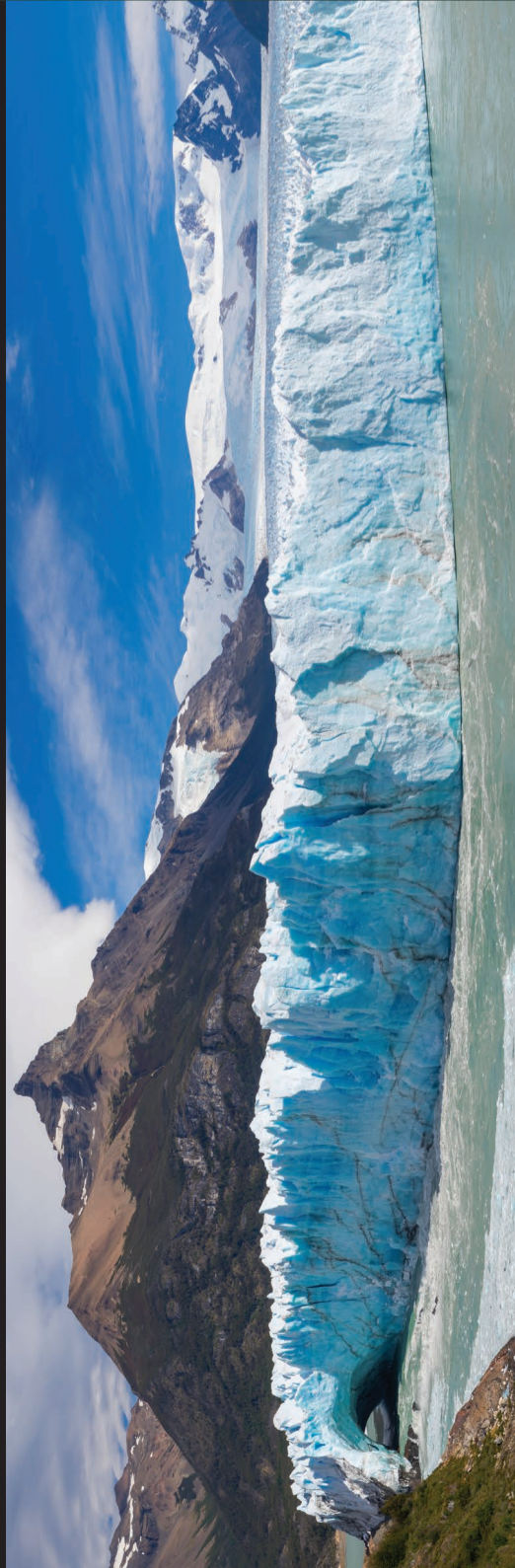
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Los Glaciares National Park

Administración de Parques Nacionales

General information



DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS

Apart from the areas covered by ice (almost half the surface of the **Los Glaciares National Park**), lakes (Lago Argentino y Viedma) or lagoons, there are three environments: **High Mountain**, **Forest** and **Steppe**.



High Mountain

Above the forest, at more than 1,000 meters, cliffs, wind, cold temperatures and snow are the extreme conditions that make this environment one of the most hostile places for any kind of life. Nonetheless resistant, tiny and fragrant plants can be found there along with a multitude of pollinators.



© Gpque, Carlos Zoratti

Forest (Bosque andino patagónico)

Nothofagus forests prevail all over the area. These forests are mainly made up of **Ñire** (*Nothofagus antarctica*), **Lenga** (*Nothofagus pumilio*) and **Guindo** (*Nothofagus betuloides*). The Lenga tree is the most predominant one in the forest. They cover from the mountain sides down to the lakes. The Guindo tree, the only evergreen in the area, dominates the more humid and poorly drained sites. Finally, the Ñire trees can bear extreme conditions from swamped places to areas with scarce precipitations. The Ñire and the Lenga trees lose their leaves in the fall.



© Gpque, Mariano Herrador

Patagonian Steppe

The National Park has a small portion of this environment in which bushes and small plants stand out. Drought-tolerant bushes dominate this environment where solar radiation is intense and winds are strong. One of the species is a hard grass called **Coiron**. There are also thorny bushes like the **Calafate** (*Berberis microphylla*) and the **Neneo** (*Mulinum spinosum*). Colourful fragrant flowers such as **Oxalis**, **Verbenas** and **Adesmys** bloom after the scarce rains in springtime.

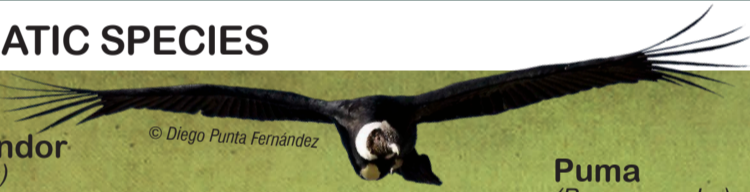


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EMBLEMATIC SPECIES

Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*)

With its 3 meters of wingspan, this big soaring bird uses rising air currents to fly without flapping its wings. In this way, condor can fly up to 200 linear kilometers.



© Diego Punta Fernández

Giant woodpecker (*Campephilus magellanicus*)

Chisel-shaped beak, long tongue and rigid tail are some of its unique adaptations. Its skull is thick and contains spongy «pads» in order to avoid concussions. Woodpeckers feed on larvae that live in tree barks. They play an important role in controlling forest pests.



Orange bumblebee (*Bombus dahlbomii*)

It is an important pollinator. A great diversity of native species live in our forests, thickets and bogs. The presence of the orange bumblebee is threatened by the exotic bumblebees. These insects only sting if they are disturbed.



© Gerardo Cerón

Torrent's duck (*Merganetta armata*)

This duck lives exclusively in mountain rivers and streams. Their presence is a synonym of a healthy environment.



© Gerardo Cerón

Puma (*Puma concolor*)

This mammal is the major predator in Patagonia. The puma is the last link in the food chain in the area, so its protection is of a vital importance. If you happen to find a puma you should scream loud and raise your arms. You should never run away or turn your back on it.



© Gpque, Mariana Martínez

Notro (*Embothrium coccineum*) and **Calafate** (*Berberis microphylla*). These two shrubs call visitors' attention with their beautiful and fragrant flowers.



© Gpque, Emilio Daher



© Flavia Raffo

Andiperla (*Andiperla willinki*)

Andiperla is the only permanent form of life in glacial ice. It is a small insect that lives in Patagonian glaciers.



DANGEROUS SPECIES

German Yellowjacket (*Vespa germanica*)

It is a wasp; an exotic species introduced in Argentina. It can «sting» more than once because it doesn't lose its stinger. It can also bite using its strong mandibles. Its bite is highly dangerous especially for allergic people. It is a scavenger and dangerous predator.

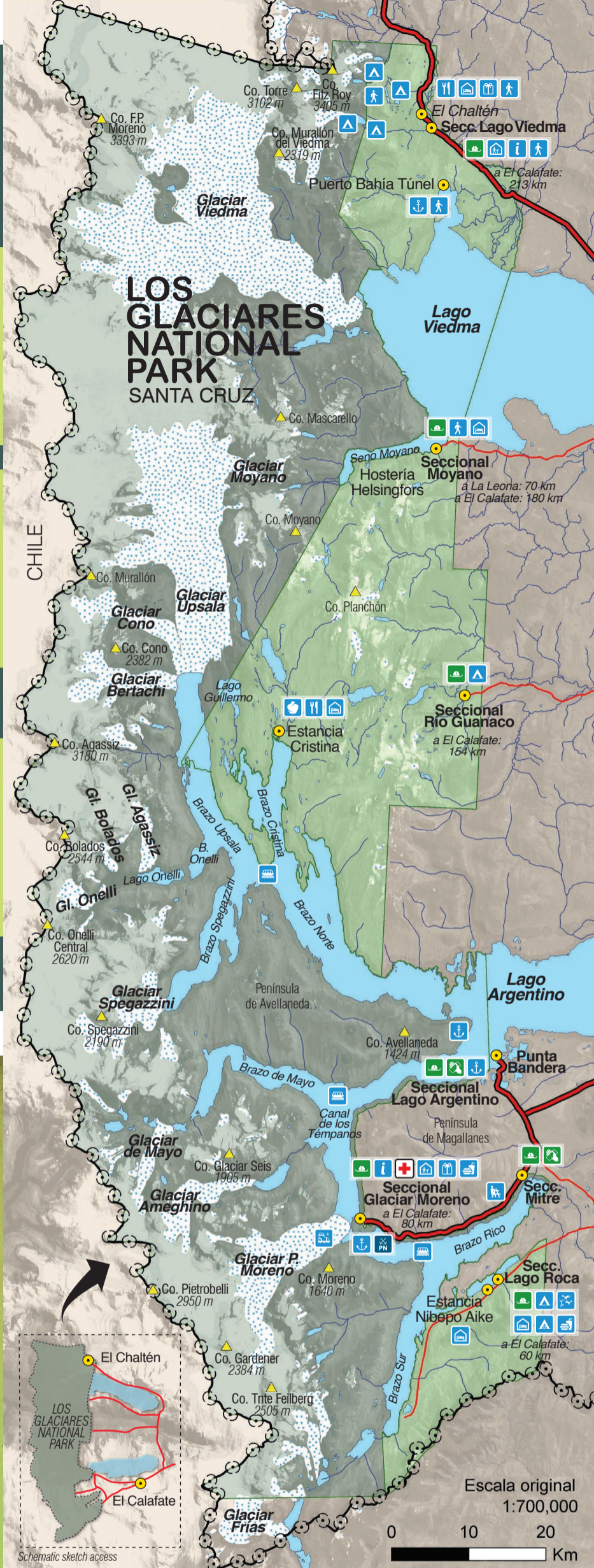


20 mm

Real size adult german yellowjacket

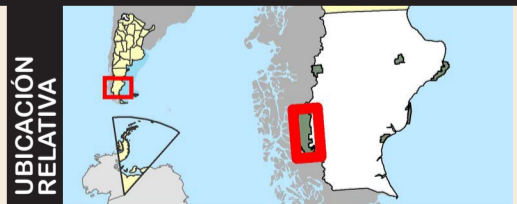
RECOMMENDATIONS AND PREVENTION

- Keep cars and tents closed. Check there are no wasps.
- Don't get close to nests (especially in autumn).
- Avoid using perfume and colourful clothes.
- Check that there are no wasps during picnics or in clothes and shoes.
- Avoid walking barefooted.
- Bag all food and left overs.
- If you see wasps, keep calm. Do not make sudden movements. Do not try to shoot them away. If a wasp alights on your body keep calm and stand still.



REFERENCES

- International border
- National Park
- National Reserve
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Mountain / Hill
- Glacier
- Park ranger
- Entrance - Ticket office
- Interpretation center
- Information
- Campground (amenities)
- Camping (no amenities)
- Recreational area
- Interpretative trail
- Trail
- Trail hiking on ice
- Naval authority (Prefectura)
- Wharf
- Sailing excursion
- Cave art
- First aid
- Historical site
- Hotel / Inn
- Restaurant
- Cafeteria
- Gift shop



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