

# PARQUE PATAGONIA

HIKING AND WILDLIFE WATCHING

LAND  
OF CANYONS



An incredible, hidden world exists within the enormous crevasses that open up in the heart of the Patagonian steppe in northwestern Santa Cruz.

The **Land of Canyons** calls us to venture into a wild and mysterious kingdom where we feel somewhat like guests, somewhat at home, on these trails that our ancestors walked over 9000 years ago.

The canyons and wetlands and their incredible native wildlife, which is being recovered through rewilding, can be safely explored through an extensive network of trails, shelters, campgrounds, and lookouts at the park's four public access gateways.

These attractions complement the picturesque beauty of Scenic Route 41 and the neighboring localities that find in Patagonia Park a space for reconnecting with nature and a source of opportunities based on wildlife watching tourism.

**Begin your journey.**

**PATAGONIA PARK  
AND THE ECONOMY OF NATURE**

**CAÑADÓN PINTURAS GATEWAY**

**CAÑADÓN CARACOLAS GATEWAY**

**CONTACT**



# PATAGONIA PARK AND THE ECONOMY OF NATURE

Patagonia Park was created in 2014 thanks to a collective dream of protecting the plateaus, steppe, and canyons of the region and developing a new economic model based on a natural, complete, and functional ecosystem as well as on the coexistence between people and wildlife.

The vastness of this corner of Patagonia invites you to explore majestic landscapes shaped by glaciers and volcanoes. With its extensive network of trails, the region stands out as the new destination for hiking and wildlife watching, which is driving sustainable entrepreneurship and a renewed connection with nature in the neighboring communities.

Since 2011, organizations and institutions have been working together to restore its flora and fauna and achieve a healthy and vibrant environment.





# Rewilding Patagonia

The planet's ecosystems face enormous threats, such as environmental degradation, the extinction of native species, the invasion of exotic species, and the loss of nutrients in the soil and decrease in its capacity to capture carbon.

The canyons of Patagonia Park are no exception. From El Unco Biological Station, a dedicated team works day-to-day to recover the habitats of the steppe and the populations of their key species through *the rewilding process*.



**Learn more about our work.**





## ROCK CLIMBING

The rock climbing section of the Cañadón Caracoles Gateway has been a community space for local residents for many years. Today, it is open and free to anyone who wants to experience an adventure immersed in nature.

It includes 80 routes of varying degrees of difficulty, framed by a spectacular landscape that invites climbers to imagine the millennia-old processes that formed the canyon.

The climbing routes can be used freely. They are guarded by a monitor who lives in the area (beginning in January 2025).





ATTRACTIONS

ARCHEOLOGY

## CUEVA DE LAS MANOS PROVINCIAL PARK

The most important archeological site in Patagonia, it houses millennia-old cave paintings which depict hunting scenes, handprints, native fauna, and abstract figures.

In 2018, Rewilding Argentina donated the land for the creation of the provincial park, and since then, changes have been made to improve the tourist experience.

It can be accessed by foot from the Cañadón Pinturas Portal or via Route 40 through two vehicle entrances. The visit is guided and paid.

 +54 9 297 4586374





ATTRACTIONS

ARCHEOLOGY

## ALERO CHARCAMATA

The Alero Charcamata Provincial Reserve houses cave paintings, among which the main sustenance of the nomadic peoples of the region, the guanaco, stands out.

This historical and cultural heritage site is located on private land that can be accessed on foot and only by hiring a local tourism provider.

**Check schedules and availability at the Information Center or at the Perito Moreno Tourism Office.**





## ATTRACTIONS

# TRAILS TO DISCOVER WILDLIFE

The trails of Portal Cañadón Pinturas allow you to discover an astonishing variety of animals and plants native to Patagonia: herds of guanacos grazing in valleys and mallines (wetland meadows); Wolffsohn's viscachas sunning themselves on rocky cliff faces; Darwin's rheas and their chicks camouflaged among the colors of the steppe... and even the stealthy but ever-present puma.

**Take a look at the maps in this pamphlet to learn about the trails.**





# CAÑADÓN PINTURAS GATEWAY

**Portal Cañadón Pinturas** is one of the access points to Patagonia Park, Argentina. Here, Rewilding Argentina, with the support of the Freyja Foundation, works to conserve and restore key natural ecosystems of the Patagonian steppe and encourage economies based on nature tourism for the benefit of wildlife and local communities.

From here, you can plan tours of all the sites and portals, including the archeological site and provincial park Cueva de las Manos, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999.

The Information Center is located along National Route 40, serving as a trailhead for fifty kilometers of trails which are ideal for wildlife watching and for exploring the canyons where the first inhabitants created their art more than nine thousand years ago.





































# Trails

DIFFICULTY			TIME	DISTANCE
				 OUT & BACK DISTANCE 
TIERRA DE COLORES				
			1 h	 3.4 km
OBSERVATORIO DE ESTRELLAS				
			10 m	 600 m
KOI				
			1h 45 m	 4.8 km
LA GUANACA				
			1h 45 m	 6 km
HUELLA DE GRADÍN				
			4 h	 12 km
PUESTO DE PIEDRA				
			1 h	 3 km
CAÑADÓN PINTURAS				
			1 h	 4 km
LA VERTIENTE				
			40 m	 2.8 km
LOS BALCONES				
			20 m	 1.7 km
BAJADA DE LOS TOLDOS				
			45 m	 1.3 km
CUEVA DE LAS MANOS				
			45 m	 1 km



## INFORMATION CENTER

 **8 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

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Located along National Route 40, the Information Center is a required stop to register upon entry. Here, the hosts of the park provide information about trails and activities in the portal and the region of Patagonia Park. WiFi is available to download apps and digital pamphlets.

## *ELSA ROSENVASSER FEHER* INTERPRETATION CENTER AND PLANETARIUM

 **9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

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Camouflaged with the landscape, the Interpretation Center and Planetarium provides an overview of the region's geological formation, the evolution of its species, the biodiversity crisis, and the economy of nature. The tour ends at the planetarium, where projections allow visitors to admire the Patagonian skies.

It has a climbing wall, free of use and free of charge. You can access the Center, the trails, and the area of La Señalada from the parking lot.





## LA SEÑALADA OUTPOST & CAMPGROUND



8 a.m. – 9 p.m.



It can be reserved fifteen days in advance by email or first come first serve.

**[cltlasenalada@gmail.com](mailto:cltlasenalada@gmail.com)**



**Tariffed**

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Located on the main road that leads to the Pinturas River Canyon. It has twelve tent sites protected from the wind, a fire pit for common use, an outdoor space with tables and seating, and dry-toilet bathrooms.

A ranch outpost converted into a rural shop offers food, mate water, drinks, and regional products.





## LA CONFLUENCIA CAMPGROUND



It can be reserved fifteen days in advance by email or first come first serve.

**parquepatagonia.arg@gmail.com**



**Free to the public**

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Located at the intersection of two canyons in the valley of the Pinturas River. It has dry-toilet bathrooms and six individual tent platforms, three on each side of the river.

## DEL RÍO CAMPGROUND



It can be reserved fifteen days in advance by email or first come first serve.

**parquepatagonia.arg@gmail.com**



**Free to the public**

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Located in the Pinturas River valley, it has dry-toilet bathrooms and four tent platforms, sheltered from the wind by a row of poplars.





## LA POSTA DE LOS TOLDOS

 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.

 [reservas@lapostadelostoldos.com](mailto:reservas@lapostadelostoldos.com)

  [lapostadelostoldos](#)

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This inn has nine bedrooms with private bathrooms, common areas, a restaurant, a wood-fired stove, and fire pits.

At this location you can hire guides for wildlife watching and admire the Patagonian sky from the star observatory. These activities are free for the public.

The inn also runs the El Mollar Campground, a paid area with six private sites suitable for RVs, with a fire pit, space for tents, and a central common building with a living room with a wood stove, dishwashing room, and bathrooms with showers.





# CAÑADÓN CARACOLES GATEWAY

**Portal Cañadón Caracoles** is framed by a peculiar and ancient scenery.

This immense slice through Jurassic stone was deepened by the glaciations that transformed the landscape across thousands of years. Currently, Caracoles Canyon presents a myriad of landslides, sediments, and saltwater lagoons that retain the imprint of a great river, now disappeared due to the drainage of Andean lakes into the Pacific Ocean.

The experience of traversing it tends to include the presence of Wolffsohn's viscachas, which have been recently reintroduced to the region through rewilding, in addition to black-chested buzzard eagles, Andean condors, and elusive pumas. Peruvian pepper trees and barberry bushes stand out among the plant species.

The space is frequented by the local community of rock climbers for its great variety of climbing difficulties. The area includes more than 80 routes, campsites, an area for RVs, and wildlife watching trails.





Visitors are required to register at the Information Center, where they can also purchase drinks and simple sandwiches.

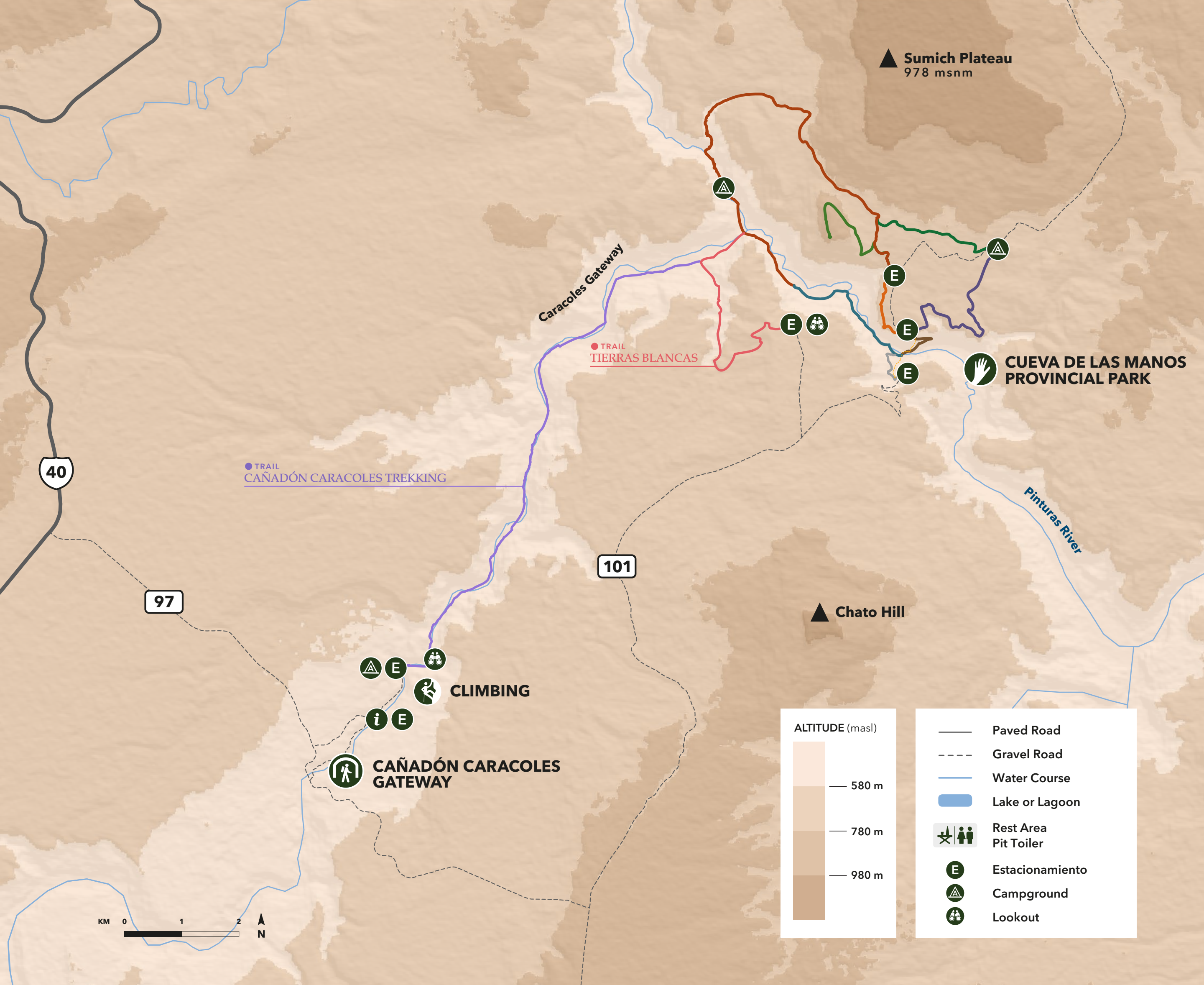
Business hours are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. To enter out of hours, please use the self-registry located in the gateway's Information Center.



CAÑADÓN CARACOLAS GATEWAY







# Trails

## DIFFICULTY

Easy

Medium

Strenuous

## TIME



## DISTANCE

● ----->●

## OUT & BACK DISTANCE

● <----->●

### TIERRAS BLANCAS TRAIL



2 h

● ----->● 6 km

### CAÑADÓN CARACOLES TREKKING



4 h

● ----->● 12 km

CAÑADÓN CARACOLES GATEWAY





## INFORMATION CENTER



**9 a.m. – 7 p.m.**

To enter out of hours, please use the self-registry.

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The experience begins at the Information Center, where visitors are required to register. The center also offers coffee, tea, and simple sandwiches. There is no a la carte food.

## RV AREA

There are two parking lots: one exclusive for RVs and another one with a maximum capacity of 20 vehicles. The RV parking lot does not have a place to empty black water tanks.





## LA CONFLUENCIA CAMPGROUND



It can be reserved fifteen days in advance by email or first come first serve.

**parquepatagonia.arg@gmail.com**



**Free to the public**

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Located at the intersection of two canyons in the valley of the Pinturas River. It has dry-toilet bathrooms and six individual tent platforms, three on each side of the river.

## CAÑADÓN CARACOLAS CAMPGROUND



It can be reserved fifteen days in advance by email or first come first serve.

**parquepatagonia.arg@gmail.com**

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The gateway includes a rugged campground with ten platforms for tents, each equipped with a picnic table and benches.

The campground has a communal fire pit, a dry bathroom, and access to water for washing dishes (not drinking water). There are no showers.





## RECOMMENDATIONS

**THIS IS A RUGGED AREA, AND THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE OBSERVED TO ENSURE A SAFE EXPERIENCE.**

- Register at the Information Center before beginning the tour. Registration is obligatory.
- Pets are prohibited.
- Respect the roads and parking lots.
- Drive carefully, following speed limits.
- Walk only along marked trails.
- Only start fires in permitted spots.
- Plan your visit considering the duration of hikes and the Portal's closing time.
- Important: Don't forget to bring water, appropriate footwear, warm clothing, and sunscreen.
- Do not remove archeological remains, minerals, or plants.
- Keep noise to a minimum.
- Bring all waste back with you from the trails.
- Watch wildlife from a safe distance; never chase or feed it. Wild animals will defend themselves if they feel threatened.





## PRECAUTIONS

### WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF SPIDER BITES

Keep the injured person calm and ask for help as soon as possible. Meanwhile, wash the bite only with water and soap, cover with ice, and loosen clothing. Remove rings, bracelets, and anything that might restrict circulation.

### WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF PUMAS

This is a unique natural spectacle to enjoy. If the puma approaches you, raise your arms to seem larger and retreat calmly, without turning your back on it.





# CAÑADÓN PINTURAS GATEWAY

National Route 40  
54 km south of Perito Moreno  
and 74 km north of Bajo Caracoles

# CAÑADÓN CARACOLES GATEWAY

National Route 40  
87 km south of Perito Moreno  
through access to the Provincial Park  
Cueva de las Manos



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