



Wilderness Medicine  
Presents  
Patagonia: Torres del Paine & Fitz Roy  
CME





# Written and Photographed by David Boswell

## DBoswell Photography

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I am an emergency physician and photographer from Tucson, Arizona. I have travelled with Wilderness Medicine and Bio Bio 4 times in the last few years, including the destinations: Costa Rica, Peru, Tanzania, and now, Patagonia.

Each trip has been a fantastic experience, from first class lodging and food, to exciting itineraries and stimulating education, to a client and safety first attitude. All the educators are dynamic and the Bio Bio guides are experienced and personable, becoming more of friends rather than just your guide.

I highly recommend trying one of the CME trips for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The only problem you will have is the likelihood you will develop an addiction to these adventure travel/CME experiences.

~David Boswell 2010

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The author/photographer posing with the vivid blue ice of Glacier Perito Moreno





Torres del Paine, Chile





Parque Nacional Torres del Paine is a landscape dominated by soaring rock spires and tall, snow-covered peaks which also contains rolling, grass-covered hills, multi-hued lakes, woodlands, glaciers, and a multitude of trekking trails. Pictured here is Lago Pehoe, with the Hosteria Pehoe nestled on a picturesque island.





The Horns (Los Cuernos) dominate the view on a day hike into the French Valley (Valle del Frances). Each day's activities provided two options, the "active" option, a more strenuous trek, such as this one to the French Valley, and a "passive" option, typically a shorter walk and/or bus tour.





The multi-hues lakes of Torres del Paine are seen from the French Valley hike. An upland goose along the trail is pictured in the inset.





One of the classic treks in Torres del Paine is the Valle Ascencio Trail. The trail climbs over the aptly named Wind Pass into the Valle Ascencio, to the Chilean Refuge, and the towards the base of The Towers. The ability to see the towers is frequently weather dependent. On this day the weather didn't cooperate.



Horses descend from the Wind Pass (right) and the Valle Ascencio (above).

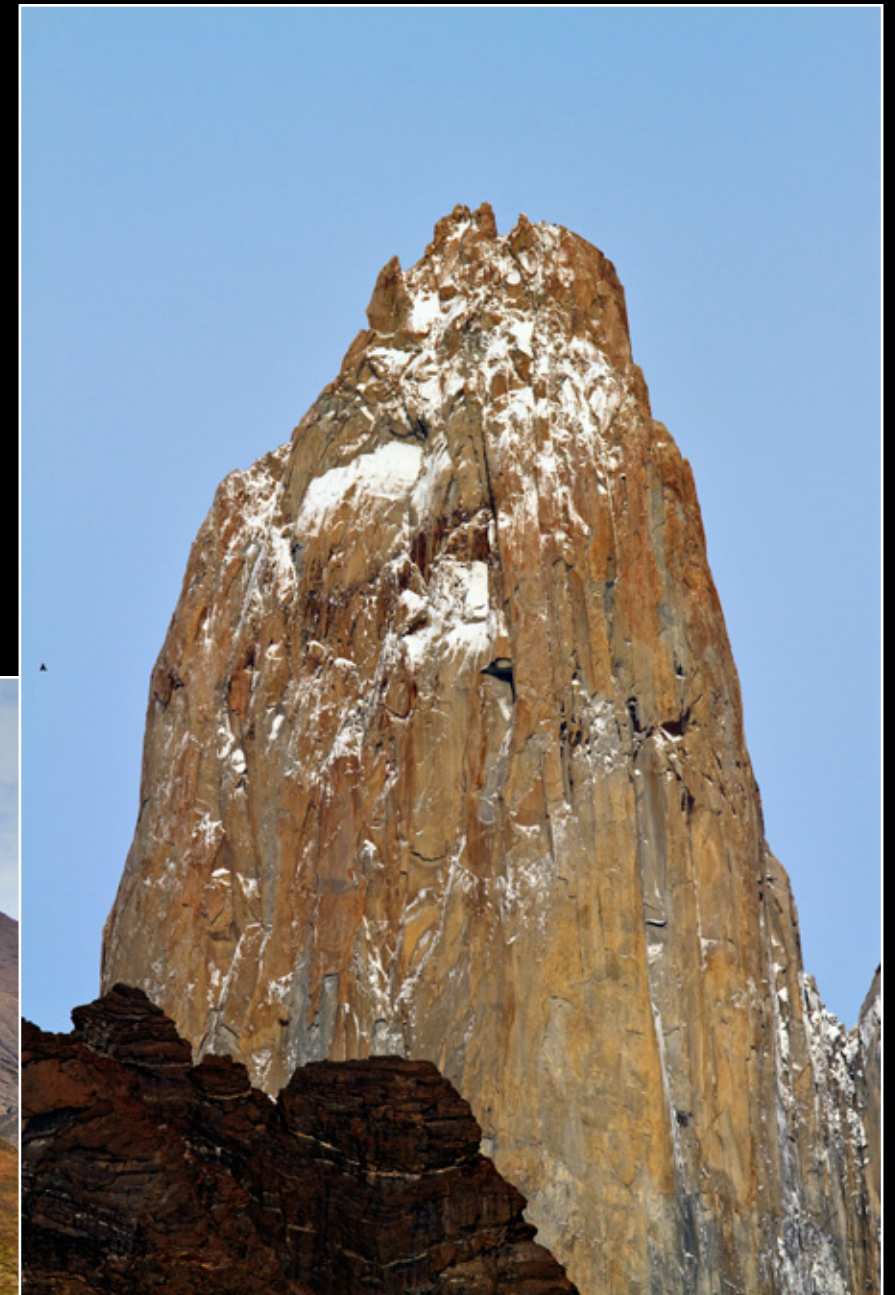




The Condor's Nest (Cerro Nido de Condor)  
glows in the light of the setting sun.



The Towers and The Condor's Nest dominate the skyline of Torres del Paine. Pictured below is a bridge across the Paine River with, from left to right, the Central Tower, the North Tower, and the Condor's Nest in the background. At right, the Central Tower dwarfs a condor soaring near it.







Bio Bio guide Phil Boyer photographing the beauty of Torres del Paine, with Paine Grande in the background (above), Salto Grande on the Paine River (right).







For our last day's activities, the passive option was a boat tour of Glacier Grey (above) and it's amazing blue ice (left). It was our first exposure to the vivid blue the glaciers in Patagonia exhibit. The amount of water in the snow and the amount of pressure that formed the ice are the variables that lead to the blue ice.





Torres del Paine is a land of many faces. From rolling grass-covered hills to forested valleys, from soaring rock spires to vivid blue glaciers, from clear calm skies to wind-driven rain storms, this landscape provides for much adventure and many wonderful memories.







The Eco-Camp at Torres del Paine provides comfortable lodging and a relaxed setting for the CME lectures. The camp provides an environmentally friendly base for the day activities and evening lectures. Power is solar, toilets flush into a composting septic system, and domes are heated by wood-burning stoves. The food is excellent, the guides friendly and knowledgeable, and the activities well thought out.







Glacier Perito Moreno, Argentina



When one thinks of Patagonian glaciers, Glacier Perito Moreno immediately pops into mind. Perito Moreno is a vast body of ice, one of the few stable glaciers in the world, that is 5 km wide, 30 km long, and has a height of 60m. For some scale, note the 2 groups of trekkers in the lower left of the glacier shown to the right. Perito Moreno is located in Parque Nacional los Glaciares (south), about an hour from El Calafate. There are 3 ways to tour the glacier, from the boardwalks near the advance edge, from tour boat (pictured below), or on the surface on a mini-trek.















One of the attractions of Glacier Perito Moreno is the regular activity, with calving and falling ice a common sight.









A natural arch of ice reaches the opposite shore of Lago Argentino at Glacier Perito Moreno





Cerro Fitz Roy & El Chalten, Argentina





El Chalten is a charming town nestled on the Rio de las Vueltas, with direct access to many of the hiking trails in the area. Having many chocolaterias, coffee shops and bakeries, and outdoor shops, wandering the town is a nice respite from the vigors of hiking.







The first afternoon in El Chalten provided an opportunity for a hike to view Glacier Piedras Blancas, a hanging type of glacier.





A hike to Laguna Torre was on the itinerary, rain or shine. While we had windows where Fitz Roy showed itself, the unpredictable Patagonian weather never allowed Cerro Torre to be seen in its entirety. The base of the triple spires is visible here, with the tips shrouded in clouds. A grey fox (above left) is seen near Laguna Torre. The Rio Fitz Roy is pictured at the left.





Hosteria Senderos provides a comfortable, unique base for the daily adventures. Hardwood abounds, both in the public areas and the rooms. The lobby houses a small restaurant with excellent regional fare and wine selection as well as a comfortable lounge area for reading, coffee, or conversation.

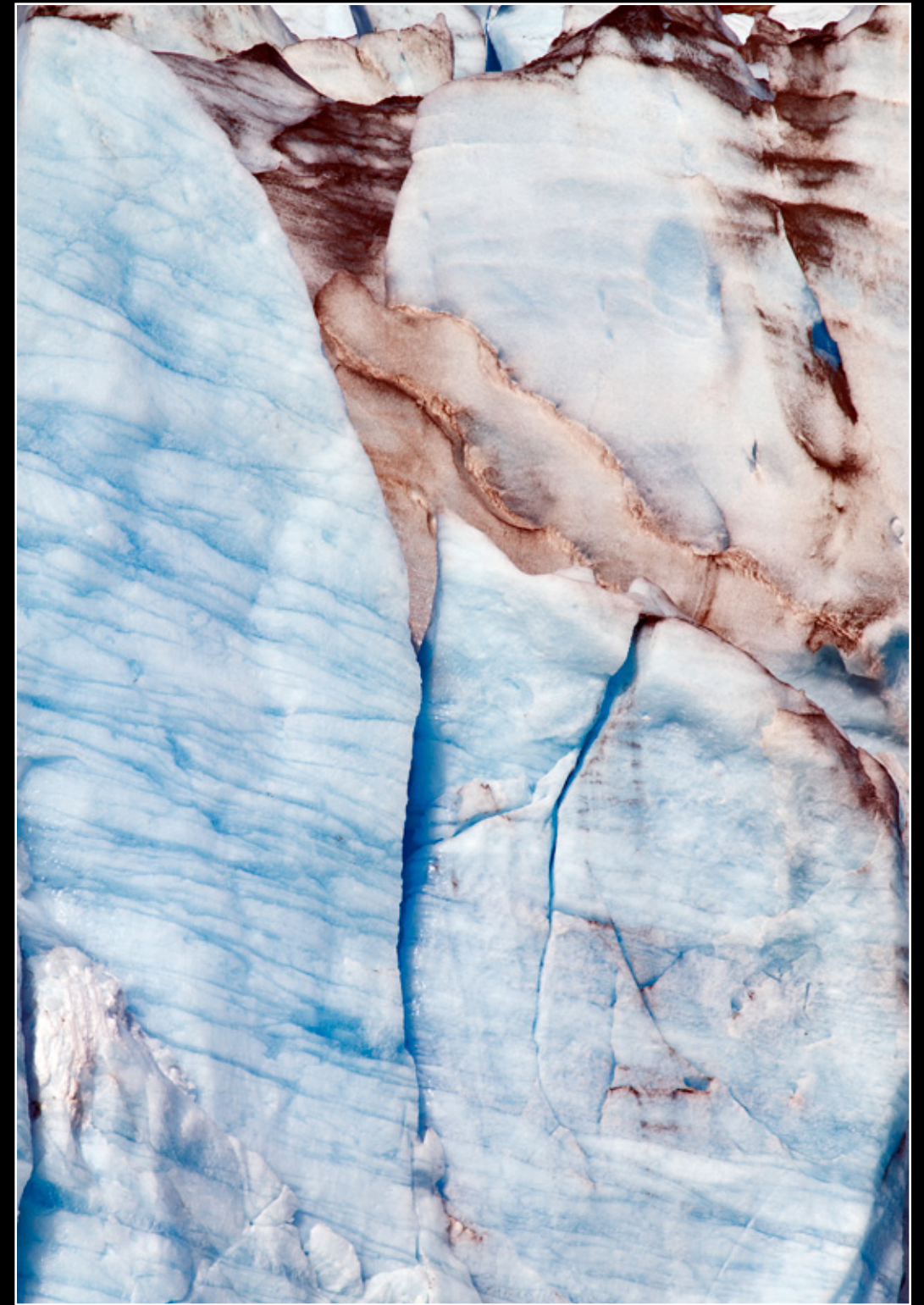






An opportunity to add on a trek on Glacier Viedma, near El Chalten, and we jumped at the chance. Glacier Viedma has fewer visitors than Perito Moreno and provides more of an adventure feel to the trek, with climbing and traverses on trails infrequently travelled.





Glacier Viedma is one more example of the brilliant blue ice present in the Patagonian glaciers of Argentina and Chile.





Rocks carved by the glacial movement of Glacier Viedma exhibit interesting patterns in the stone









Our 2010 Patagonia Wilderness Medicine CME Group