

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR USE AND VISITOR CONDUCT

Perito Moreno National Park

CHAPTER I – VISITOR CONDUCT GUIDELINES

1. AUTHORITY

1.1 Staff of the National Parks Administration are the highest authority within the jurisdiction of Perito Moreno National Park, in accordance with National Parks Law No. 22,351.

Any disrespect, failure to comply with, or refusal to follow instructions issued by Park staff shall constitute a violation of Park regulations and may result in the corresponding penalties under applicable legislation.

2. VISITOR RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Visitors are responsible for obtaining all necessary information regarding regulations, safety precautions, and restrictions before undertaking any activity within the Park.

2.2 Adults are fully responsible for any children or minors in their care. Young children must remain supervised at all times during their visit.

2.3 In the event of an emergency, imminent danger, or the detection of a wildfire or smoke, visitors must immediately notify National Park staff.

2.4 Visitors are responsible for completing the Mountain Registration Form in full. This document constitutes a sworn declaration, and all information provided must be accurate and truthful.

Any changes to the itinerary or planned activities must be reported to authorized Park staff before they occur so that the registration can be updated accordingly.

Extending your stay within the Park without prior notification and without updating your Mountain Registration Form is strictly prohibited.

All emergency situations shall be managed in accordance with the Perito Moreno National Park Disaster Risk and Emergency Management Plan, currently under development and approval. This plan establishes the response, evacuation, and coordination protocols designed to ensure the safety of visitors, Park personnel, and the natural environment.

3. COMMON RISKS WITHIN THE PROTECTED AREA

3.1 Although the Park implements measures to reduce risks to visitors, complete safety cannot be guaranteed in remote natural environments due to the inherent dynamics of wild ecosystems. Visitors may only use designated areas and participate in authorized activities.

3.2 Wind Safety

During periods of strong winds, visitors should avoid standing beneath trees with dead branches, exposed roots, or leaning trunks, as well as unstable slopes. Falling branches and rockfalls are common natural hazards in wilderness areas. Exercise extreme caution at all times.

3.3 Allergies and Pre-existing Medical Conditions

Visitors may be exposed to natural elements capable of triggering allergic reactions or aggravating pre-existing medical conditions. Anyone with allergies or existing health conditions is responsible for carrying the necessary medication and ensuring it remains available throughout their stay.

3.4 Hantavirus – Preventive Measures

Although no cases have been recorded within Perito Moreno National Park, Hantavirus is present in other areas of Patagonia. Visitors are advised to:

- Do not enter abandoned or poorly ventilated buildings.
- Avoid disturbing stacked firewood or objects that may have been in contact with rodents.
- Stay on designated trails.
- Keep campsites clean.
- Store food in sealed containers.
- Dispose of waste properly.
- Do not leave food at overnight sites for use by other groups.

3.5 Puma Encounters

Pumas (*Puma concolor*) inhabit the Park.

If you encounter one:

- Remain calm. Never run.
- Do not crouch down or turn your back on the animal.

- Maintain eye contact.
- Make yourself appear larger by raising your arms or waving a jacket or branch.
- Make loud noises. Shout if necessary and, if required, throw stones or other objects without approaching the animal.
- Report the sighting immediately to Park staff.

These measures are intended to protect both visitors and wildlife while reducing the likelihood of dangerous encounters.

3.6 Water Safety

The Park's lakes and rivers contain cold, deep water that poses serious risks to visitor safety.

Swimming or any recreational activity involving entry into lakes or rivers is prohibited throughout the Park.

Visitors are responsible for taking all necessary precautions to ensure their own safety and that of their group.

4. RESPECTING THE CHARACTER OF EACH AREA

4.1 Be respectful of others. Every visitor has the same right to enjoy the Park's natural environment. There is sufficient space for all groups to enjoy their visit in comfort and tranquility.

4.2 Respect the intended use and character of each area or facility. Avoid activities that may interfere with the enjoyment of others or compromise the safety of any visitor.

4.3 Visitors must comply with any additional regulations that apply to the specific area they are visiting.

5. NOISE AND NATURAL SOUNDSCAPE

5.1 Noise Pollution

The use or installation of any device or equipment that produces excessive, disruptive, or intrusive noise, or that interferes with the natural sounds of the environment, is strictly prohibited.

5.2 Audio Devices

Music players, radios, speakers, or any other audio equipment may only be used with headphones for personal listening.

5.3

Playing music or broadcasting voices through loudspeakers or external speakers is prohibited in all public areas, campgrounds, and backcountry huts.

5.4 Exceptions

The use of amplified sound systems may only be authorized in exceptional circumstances related to visitor safety and must receive prior approval from the National Parks Administration.

6. VISITOR CONDUCT

6.1

In the event of a disagreement or conflict with another visitor, you must refrain from arguing or engaging in confrontation.

Instead, immediately contact Park staff or a Park Ranger, who are the only authorities authorized to intervene and resolve disputes in accordance with Park regulations.

6.2

Visitors whose behavior negatively affects the experience of others or violates these regulations may be denied entry or required to leave the Park at the discretion of the Park Ranger.

6.3

In the event of an emergency, incident, or any situation requiring intervention within the protected area, visitors must immediately follow all instructions issued by Park Rangers.

Park Rangers are the competent authority responsible for implementing emergency procedures and response protocols. Compliance with their instructions is mandatory to ensure visitor safety, environmental protection, and public order.

7. PERSONAL BELONGINGS

7.1 Visitors are responsible for safeguarding their personal belongings and taking reasonable precautions against theft, loss, or vandalism.

7.2 The National Parks Administration accepts no responsibility for valuables left inside vehicles or tents.

7.3 If theft or vandalism occurs, visitors must immediately notify a Park Ranger, who will contact the appropriate authorities.

8. VISITOR EXPERIENCE

8.1 Visitors have the right to request the Park's Complaints and Suggestions Book, which must be made available upon request.

Park staff shall record the visitor's information and forward the complaint to the Park Superintendent within 24 hours for review.

8.2 If an issue cannot be resolved immediately by on-site staff, visitors should contact the Park Superintendent's Office.

All complaints or reports must be submitted in writing in accordance with the applicable administrative procedures.

8.3 Visitors must respect the maximum capacity established for each facility and service, including campgrounds, trails, and backcountry huts.

CHAPTER II – USE GUIDELINES

GENERAL USE GUIDELINES

9. ACCESS TO THE PROTECTED AREA

9.1 The Public Use Area of Perito Moreno National Park is open annually from **October 1 through April 30**.

9.2 Park Entrance Hours

Visitors may enter the Park between **8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.**

Entry outside these hours is not permitted in order to ensure visitor safety and facilitate effective management of the protected area.

9.3 Access to Trails and Backcountry Huts

For trail systems such as **Azara** and **Río Lácteo Valley**, entry hours are determined according to the estimated hiking time required to reach the overnight areas.

Consequently, visitors heading to overnight sites that are **not located at trailheads** may begin their hike **until 4:00 p.m.** The latest permitted departure from these overnight areas is **6:00 p.m.**

In all cases, visitors must report their return at the Visitor Information Center before closing time.

9.4 Exception

Visitors staying at huts located at trailheads (**Gilberto, Caleta Huala and René Negro**) may enter the trail until **7:00 p.m.**, provided they hold a valid reservation and comply with all applicable safety requirements established by the National Parks Administration.

9.5 Preventing the Spread of *Didymosphenia geminata* (Didymo)

Upon entering Perito Moreno National Park, all wading gear and any equipment that may come into contact with lakes, rivers, or streams **must be disinfected** in accordance with National Parks Administration protocols.

Disinfection shall only be carried out at designated control stations under the supervision of authorized Park personnel.

These measures are intended to prevent the introduction and spread of the invasive alga *Didymosphenia geminata* (Didymo) both within and beyond the protected area.

Failure to comply with this requirement constitutes a violation of Park regulations.

10. FIRE SAFETY

10.1 Lighting fires anywhere within Perito Moreno National Park, including both developed and backcountry areas, is strictly prohibited.

This measure is intended to prevent wildfires and protect the Park's natural resources.

10.2 Visitors may use only portable outdoor camping stoves designed specifically for backcountry cooking.

10.3 Failure to comply with this regulation may result in penalties under applicable legislation.

10.4 Campfires and fire pits are prohibited throughout the entire Park.

10.5 Fireworks and all other pyrotechnic devices are prohibited.

10.6 Smoking is strictly prohibited in grasslands, shrublands, forests, trails, enclosed facilities, and all other areas of the Park, except in designated smoking areas.

10.7 These restrictions are intended to prevent wildfires, minimize environmental impacts, and protect the health and safety of visitors and Park staff.

10.8 In designated smoking areas, cigarettes must be completely extinguished, and cigarette butts must be carried out for proper disposal.

Where available, fireproof disposal containers must be used.

11. FLORA AND WILDLIFE

11.1 Do not chase, disturb, throw objects at, or feed wildlife. Animals should always be observed from a safe and respectful distance.

11.2 The possession or use of slingshots, air rifles, firearms, or any device capable of launching a projectile is prohibited.

11.3 The removal or introduction of any living or dead organisms—including plants, seeds, animals, firewood, or other natural materials—is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the National Parks Administration.

11.4 The use of wildlife playback recordings, as well as the placement of traps, feeders, perches, or any other devices intended to attract wildlife, is prohibited.

11.5 Hunting and fishing are prohibited throughout Perito Moreno National Park.

11.6 If you observe a species of special conservation concern, such as a **huemul** or **puma**, do not approach the animal. If possible, take a photograph from a safe distance and report the sighting to a Park Ranger.

11.7 Do not cut, damage, or remove vegetation.

Take only photographs. Leave nothing behind except your footprints, and take away everything you brought with you.

12. GRAFFITI AND VANDALISM

12.1 Writing, carving, painting, or marking rocks, trees, signs, tables, buildings, or any natural or man-made feature within the Park is prohibited.

13. FIREWOOD

13.1 Only firewood supplied by the National Parks Administration for use in designated backcountry huts may be used.

The following activities are prohibited:

13.2 Cutting trees, chopping wood, or using chainsaws anywhere within the protected area.

13.3 Collecting firewood outside designated camping areas.

13.4 Transporting Park firewood in any type of vehicle.

13.5 Wood-burning stoves in backcountry huts may only be used after **8:00 p.m.**

Daytime use is prohibited except during periods of heavy rain, snowfall, or exceptionally low temperatures, when Park staff may authorize their use to ensure visitor safety and comfort.

14. WASTE MANAGEMENT

14.1 Visitors are responsible for all waste they generate and must pack out everything they bring into the Park.

14.2 Keep campsites clean at all times. Do not leave food scraps or organic waste that may attract rodents or other wildlife.

14.3 Human hygiene products, including toilet paper, sanitary products, and wet wipes, are considered waste and must be packed out.

They must not be left on the ground or buried.

15. AREAS WITHOUT TOILETS

15.1 Human waste must never be deposited in public use areas or on trails.

15.2 In case of an emergency, dig a cathole approximately **20 cm (8 inches)** deep at least **60 meters (200 feet)** from lakes, rivers, or streams.

Cover and bury the waste completely, **but pack out all toilet paper and hygiene products.**

16. TRENCHES AND GROUND DISTURBANCE

16.1 Digging trenches, drainage channels, furrows, pits, or excavations of any kind is prohibited, regardless of their intended purpose.

17. WASTEWATER DISPOSAL

17.1 Visitors traveling in motorhomes, camper vans, travel trailers, or similar vehicles are prohibited from discharging grey water, black water, or any wastewater within the boundaries of Perito Moreno National Park.

All wastewater must be transported and disposed of at an authorized disposal facility located outside the Park.

18. DISPOSAL OF LIQUIDS

18.1 The discharge of salt water, boiling water, cooking oil, chemicals, toilet waste, or any other liquid or substance that may harm people, wildlife, vegetation, Park facilities, or the environment is prohibited.

19. PETS

19.1 Pets, including dogs and cats, are not permitted within Perito Moreno National Park.

The only exception is for certified assistance dogs accompanying visitors with disabilities, in accordance with applicable National Parks Administration regulations.

20. DRONES AND REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT

20.1 The operation of drones or any other remotely piloted aircraft within Perito Moreno National Park is prohibited unless prior written authorization has been granted by the National Parks Administration.

Drone flights may disturb wildlife and negatively affect the experience of other visitors.

21. VEHICLE USE

21.1 Drivers must comply with all posted speed limits.

Maximum speeds are:

- **5–30 km/h (3–19 mph)** on internal Park roads.
- **40 km/h (25 mph)** on the access road.

Drive carefully at all times to avoid collisions with wildlife and to minimize impacts on vegetation and the natural environment.

21.2 Road conditions may include potholes, loose gravel, washboard surfaces, fallen rocks, livestock, or wildlife.

Drive with extreme caution.

21.3 Motor vehicles may only travel on designated public roads and authorized vehicle tracks.

Driving off-road is prohibited, except for official Park vehicles or vehicles specifically authorized by the National Parks Administration.

21.4 The use of ATVs (quad bikes) is prohibited on internal roads and within camping areas, except for authorized official vehicles.

21.5 Large buses and coaches should contact the Park before arrival to obtain information regarding road conditions, turning restrictions, and vehicle access limitations.

22. PARKING

22.1 Vehicles may only be parked in designated parking areas.

22.2 Parking on roads, trails, access routes, or in any location that obstructs traffic or emergency access is strictly prohibited.

II. SPECIFIC USE GUIDELINES

23. CAMPGROUNDS AND OVERNIGHT AREAS

23.1 Camping is permitted only in designated overnight areas, including campsites and backcountry huts.

23.2 Reservations Visitors wishing to stay overnight within Perito Moreno National Park must hold a **confirmed reservation**.

Reservations shall be requested through the official booking system or by any other method established by the National Parks Administration.

A reservation is considered confirmed **only after the visitor receives official confirmation**, including the reservation number and the assigned overnight location(s).

Visitors must occupy only the campsite or hut assigned to them and follow all instructions provided in the confirmation.

Visitors arriving without a reservation may be accommodated **only if space is available**. Availability will be determined at the Visitor Information Center.

23.3 Maximum Length of Stay

Unless otherwise specified, the maximum stay in any campground or backcountry hut is **one (1) night** per registered visitor or group.

The following exceptions apply:

23.3.1 Tucúquere Hut, El Arroyo Campground and Domes

Up to **two non-consecutive nights**, exclusively for visitors with confirmed reservations completing the corresponding hiking circuit.

23.3.2 San Lorenzo Area

Up to **two consecutive nights** in the hut, domes, or designated campsites.

23.3.3 Motorhome Areas

Motorhomes may stay only in designated overnight areas located at the trailheads for:

- Península Lago Belgrano
- Lago Burmeister
- Valle del Río Lácteo – Laguna de los Témpanos

The maximum stay is **four consecutive nights**.

Visitors may not extend their stay beyond this limit or join another group in order to circumvent the maximum stay policy.

These limits are intended to ensure fair access and allow all visitors the opportunity to enjoy the Park's facilities.

23. CAMPGROUNDS AND OVERNIGHT AREAS *(continued)*

23.4 Check-out Time

Visitors must vacate their assigned campsite or backcountry hut by **11:00 a.m.** on their scheduled departure date, unless otherwise authorized due to severe weather or other exceptional circumstances.

23.5 Visitors Without Reservations

Visitors arriving without a reservation will be accommodated **only if overnight space is available.**

Those seeking accommodation must register at the **Guardaparque Ceferino Fonzo Visitor Information Center.**

23.6 Parking

Vehicles must be parked only in designated parking areas.

Washing any type of vehicle within the Park is prohibited.

23.7 Idling Vehicles

Vehicle engines must not remain running for more than **three (3) minutes.**

23.8 Lighting

Use camping lanterns or flashlights for illumination.

Vehicle headlights must not be used to illuminate campsites or overnight areas.

23.9 Motorhomes and Camper Vans

Motorhomes, camper vans, travel trailers, and similar recreational vehicles must remain only in the areas specifically designated for their use, as directed by Park staff.

Permanent occupancy or storage of these vehicles within the Park is prohibited.

Visitors must leave the Park with the same vehicle in which they arrived.

23.10 Use of Soaps and Chemicals

The use or disposal of soap, detergent, bleach, toothpaste, or any other chemical products in lakes, rivers, streams, or on the ground within the Park is prohibited.

This restriction applies to personal hygiene, dishwashing, laundry, and all other cleaning activities.

23.11 Condition of Facilities

At the end of the stay, Park staff may inspect the assigned campsite or hut.

Facilities must be left clean and in the same condition in which they were received.

Visitors may be held responsible for any damage caused and may be subject to fines or other enforcement actions under applicable regulations.

24. HIKING

24.1 Visitors may travel only on designated trails that are officially **open**.

Creating unofficial trails or shortcuts is prohibited, as they cause erosion and may confuse other hikers.

24.2 Registration

Visitors must obtain current trail information and complete the required registration before beginning any hike.

Trail registration is mandatory.

24.3 Trail Hours

Visitors must comply with all trail opening and closing times.

Always allow sufficient time to complete your hike during daylight hours.

24.4 Trip Planning

Visitors are strongly encouraged to inform a family member, friend, or other responsible person of their planned route and expected return time.

24.5 Trail Closures

Trails may be closed due to weather conditions or other safety concerns.

Visitors are responsible for confirming current trail conditions before departure.

24.6 Recommended Equipment

Visitors are strongly encouraged to carry appropriate equipment, including:

- First-aid kit
- Sunscreen
- Weather-appropriate clothing
- Proper hiking footwear with ankle support and adequate traction

Sandals, lightweight sneakers, and smooth-soled shoes are not recommended.

25. GUIDES, COMMERCIAL TOURS AND ORGANIZED GROUPS

25.1 All guides, transportation providers, and commercial tour operators must hold a valid operating authorization issued by Perito Moreno National Park and carry the appropriate identification while conducting activities.

25.2 Organized Groups

Organized groups must receive prior authorization before entering or operating within the Park.

An organized group is defined as any group visiting the Park through a public or private institution for recreational, educational, cultural, sporting, or tourism purposes, including camping, hiking, cycling, guided walks, or overland excursions.

25.3 Commercial Activities

Anyone wishing to provide services or sell products within the Park must first contact the Park Superintendent's Office to determine authorization requirements and applicable operating restrictions.

26. BICYCLES

26.1 Bicycles are permitted only on roads open to motor vehicles.

Cycling on hiking trails is prohibited.

Cyclists should wear helmets and use reflective equipment or lights to improve visibility, particularly in dusty conditions or low light.

27. COMMERCIAL FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

27.1 Commercial filming, photography, advertising productions, or similar activities require prior written authorization from the National Parks Administration and must comply with all applicable regulations.

27.2 Visitors should consult Park staff before undertaking any activity that is not expressly authorized under these regulations.

28. WATER-BASED RECREATION

28.1 Swimming, fishing, kayaking, paddleboarding, rafting, or **any other recreational activity involving lakes, rivers, streams, or other bodies of water is prohibited throughout Perito Moreno National Park.**