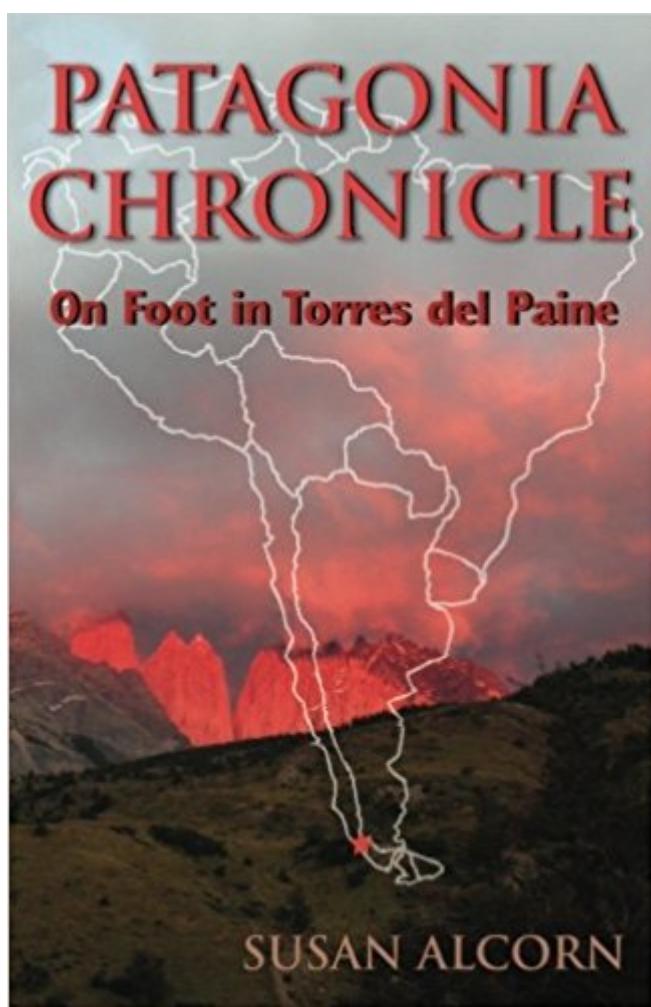


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# Patagonia Chronicle: On Foot In Torres Del Paine



## Synopsis

Patagonia Chronicle: On Foot in Torres del Paine enables readers to gain a sense of the rewards and challenges of travel south of the 40th parallel in Chile and Argentina--in the area known as Patagonia. Through a combination of journal entries, interviews, historic documents, and essays on subjects unique to the region, the reader samples the richness of the land and its peoples past and present. In addition, readers will find a wealth of practical information including tips on pre-trip planning, transportation, and accommodations. The book is for anyone contemplating a hike in Chile's most famous park. Hikers en route to Torres del Paine will benefit from the detailed park information. They'll find descriptions of the accommodations, trekking routes, and trails as well as maps, time and mileage charts, suggested itineraries, and a trail elevation profile. However, Patagonia Chronicle is more than a guide to trekking in that spectacular park: it casts a much larger net. As such, this book will appeal not only to hikers, but also to travelers of all stripes. Besides Torres del Paine, readers discover the gateway towns that most Patagonian travelers enjoy exploring such as: Punta Arenas, Puerto Natales, and El Calafate. They visit Los Glaciares National Park--home of Perito Moreno Glacier and Mount Fitz Roy. Travelers will also find insider information about touring Chile's and Argentina's more temperate Lake Districts and several other national parks inside and outside of Patagonia. They'll learn about Ushuaia--the "End of the World," and hub for visits to Antarctica. And, because most travelers to Patagonia will spend some time in Santiago or Buenos Aires on their way farther south, they'll find the colorful chapters on those capital cities helpful. Finally, an underlying question raised in the book: how to gauge the risks and confront the fears that must be overcome when seeking adventure in unknown territory can be helpful and inspiring to any hiker, backpacker, or climber. In Patagonia Chronicle we learn that the author wants to backpack the Torres del Paine back country circuit, but she knows that the trek can range from a moderate activity to a life-threatening one--depending on the extremely unpredictable weather. In life there are always demons to slay: how does one decide when to continue on and when to turn back? Dec 14, 2016 alert \*\*\* campsites in Torres del Paine now require reservations \*\*\*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Patagonia Chronicle is an engaging travelogue about the 2009 adventure that author Susan Alcorn and her husband had [on] the internationally famous Circuit trail in Torres del Paine National Park in Chilean Patagonia.... recounts a firsthand journey amid nature, wildlife... and tremendous scenic beauty.... chapters are filled with backpacking tips, tricks, and techniques for those who would hike the wilds of Patagonia... an absorbing read from cover to cover, thoroughly recommended for armchair travelers and prospective sightseers alike. MBR Bookwatch: Dec. 2012. Able Greenspan, reviewer

Susan Alcorn, a long-distance hiker, lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, and is the author of *Camino Chronicle: Walking to Santiago and We're in the Mountains not Over the Hill: Tales and Tips from Seasoned Women Backpackers*. She has hiked nearly 2,000 miles on pilgrimage trails in Spain, France, and Portugal. She has hiked the 2,650 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail—the national scenic trail from Mexico to Canada through the mountains of the west coast. She climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro at the age of 65. Susan began backpacking with her husband when she was 48. She had her heart set on climbing Mount Whitney, at 14,496 feet, the highest mountain in the lower 48. As the yearly trips into the sierra continued, Susan learned a lot about backpacking—including how to pack without unnecessary gear and weight. After the Alcorns completed the John Muir Trail, they decided to start backpacking more sections of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). In addition, they set out to walk the pilgrimage route across Northern Spain known as the Camino de Santiago. That almost 500-mile trek was a life-changing event. With their conviction that they could tackle longer trails and the realization that when approaching their 70s one needs to consider how many more backpacking trips will be possible, the Alcorns made some serious choices. Susan drew up a five-year plan to complete the Pacific Crest Trail as well as other pilgrimage trails. For several years, they found

themselves completing a southern portion of the PCT in early spring, hiking on European pilgrimage trails in late spring, and backpacking a northern section of the PCT in late summer. In 2007, they climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. In 2009 and 2010 they went to Patagonia to do a challenging backpacking trip in Torres del Paine and to visit other areas in Chile and Argentina. Those adventures led to this current book. *Camino Chronicle: Walking to Santiago* was a Benjamin Franklin Award finalist (category: Travel Essay) in 2007. *We're in the Mountains not over the Hill: Tales and Tips from Seasoned Women Backpackers* received the BAIPA Best Travel/Adventure Book award 2005. Susan Alcorn is a member of several professional organizations: Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA); Small Publishers Association of North American (SPAN); Bay Area Independent Publishers Association (BAIPA); and Bay Area Travel Writers (BATW).

If you are thinking about venturing to Patagonia this book is a must read. A cross between a travel narrative and a travel guide it is a personal reflection packed with detailed information. Hats off to Susan Alcorn for making this journey at 68 with her husband who was 70 at the time. They hike about twelve miles a day in a region known for extreme cold and winds without a whimper. They are carrying backpacks and camping in tents. In short, getting an up close and personal experience of the majestic terrain. This is not how I want to go, but learning the details of how to get to what is often described as a magical place and what to expect when I do was very helpful. That she was able to not just endure, but enjoy the unpredictable climate so much that she and hubby returned in 2010 to complete their trek tells me I want to go more than ever. Linda Ballou-Author of *Lost Angel Walkabout-One Traveler's Tales*

I read this twice and enjoyed it both times. There are additional sections for people who need or want technical information such as hiking routes, rough maps, and packing lists. I enjoyed getting a sense of the region as to a backpacking experience, actually several trips are described in this book. Good for travel preparation for such a trip, or just plain bedside reading!

My mother often counselled: If you don't have ANYTHING good to say, don't say anything at all. I'm going against that council to say simply I would really like a refund.

Detailed write up gave confidence for our impending trip

This book was written by a person who was too feeble to appreciate trekking in Patagonia. In trekking

the Circuit around Torres del Paine, she turned back after three days rather than climb 3000 feet to the John Garner Pass. Rather than provide information on the history, geology, animals, or native people of the regions, she tells you what she ate each day for breakfast and the first names of the other people who were at her camp site. An absolute waste of time if you are going to the region and want to learn something about it.

I found this book so helpful while my husband and I were in Patagonia, even though we weren't backpacking like the author. There were so many useful tips and historical pieces of info, I wish I'd read the book before we left home!

I loved Susan's camino book and this is also a good read! She is a great character and she and her husband seem to have great travel experiences!

It's chalk full of information but not the stuff I needed. This book is an experience two people had. This is not a guide book.

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