



PROJECT REPORT

Special Project: U.S. Trail Experts to Torres del Paine Torres del Paine National Park, Patagonia, Chile February and March 2022

In early 2022, Conservation Volunteers International Program began a multi-year partnership effort to construct a new Las Torres trail, which is the heavily traveled trail leading to the Mirador where visitors can gaze at the Torres (Towers) for which Torres del Paine National Park is named. During the preparation for the project, discussions were held with locals in Puerto Natales, Punta Arenas and at Las Torres Reserve. If ConservationVIP® could bring Trail Experts from the USA to the Region, could local volunteers be recruited by the local organizations and trained by the trail experts?

ConservationVIP® recruited ten US Trail Experts who agreed to volunteer their time to travel to Torres del Paine and provide trail construction training. LATAM airlines provided plane tickets from the U.S.A. to Punta Arenas, Chile and ConservationVIP® provided the airfare for the volunteers to get to LATAM's U.S. hubs. [Torres del Paine Legacy Fund](#) recruited Weekend Volunteers from Puerto Natales and Punta Area. [Las Torres Reserve](#) provided ground transportation, lodging and food.

Over a two-month period, the ten trail volunteers rotated through the program for different lengths of time. The Weekend Volunteers arrived Thursday afternoon and departed Monday afternoon. Six weekend sessions were held in February and March. Twenty-nine volunteers received trails training and assisted with construction of the new Torres Trail.

The ten trail experts volunteered 1,680 hours on the project, and the twenty-nine Chilean volunteers contributed 928 hours to the project. Together they constructed 451 meters of new construction hiker trail. Also, very importantly, they created a new trails community within Patagonia.

This project was coordinated by [Garry Oye, a Director of Conservation Volunteers International Program](#), who deserves special mention for the many hours he devoted to organizing the project. The U.S. trail experts who volunteered their time and expertise Jonathan Baxter, Cynthea Beitner, Fisher Gangemi, Tucker Tirey, Evan Tirey, Derek Beitner, Mike Rowan, Elizabeth MacPhail and Tyler Roos. No list can adequately credit the many other wonderful people and organizations involved in this effort. Nor can any one picture capture all the work done by these generous people. But scrolling through the pictures below will give a good sense of this amazing effort.









Volunteers Ignacia and Alejandro visiting Las Torres for the first time.





