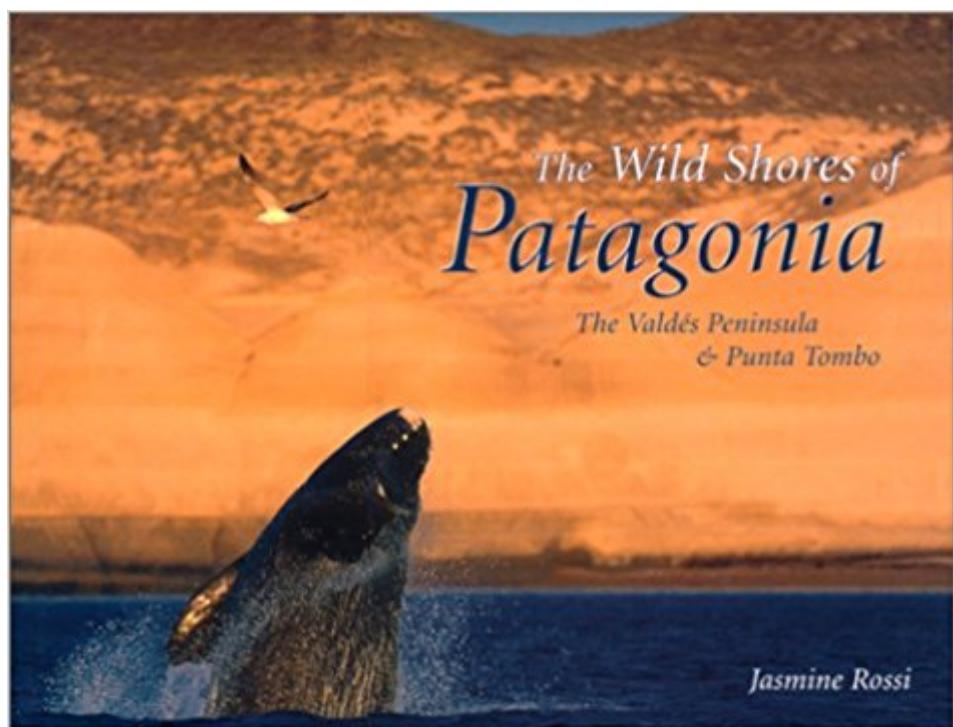


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# The Wild Shores Of Patagonia: The Valdes Peninsula & Punta Tombo



## **Synopsis**

Patagonia, on the southern tip of South America, is one of the world's greatest wildlife habitats. This book is an illustrated window on the life-and-death struggles of the wild animals that live there, including photographs of killer whales, elephant seals, penguins and albatrosses.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Neither an experienced author nor a photographer, Rossi discovered Patagonia while on short leave from her job with the European Parliament and promptly turned her fascination into a two-year encampment to prepare this book. About half the book is devoted to a detailed discussion of southern right whales, southern elephant seals, and killer whales (including their unique beach hunting methods). Less detail is given to South American sea lions and dusky and bottlenose dolphins. The author describes Magellanic penguins but provides limited information on 12 other kinds of birds, sometimes furnishing just one picture and caption per species. Rossi also discusses eight land animals in about 25 pages, giving short shrift to some unique creatures. Reader interest in this area may grow, since the United Nations has recently declared the Vald s Peninsula a World Heritage Site, and ecotourist visits are increasing. Although the photographs are merely average, this readable volume is recommended for large public libraries and academic environmental/life sciences collections.

Nancy Moeckel, Miami Univ. Libs., Oxford, OH Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I purchased for my father, who's going on a cruise around Cape Horn from Chile to Argentina. He gave it a big thumbs up. Excellent value!

In most coffee table books about wildlife, the text serves a minor role compared to the photographs. Reading this book, I was delighted to find that Jasmine Rossi, a talented amateur with no previous books to her credit, actually wrote a fascinating set of portraits of the birds and mammals of the Valdes Peninsula and Punta del Tombo in the State of Chubut, Argentina. As this area is now one of the major eco-tourist destinations in all of Latin America, this book was badly needed. Graham Harris's *A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF COASTAL PATAGONIA* is hard to find and is considerably more dry. Although she skimps a bit on the bird life, Rossi wrote a wonderful chapter on the Magellanic Penguins which obviously owed a lot to close observation. Particularly affecting was the story of a penguin couple whom she names José and María who hatch two eggs. The chick born first grows more quickly and has better access to food, forcing his younger and smaller sibling to attempt to steal food from an adjoining couple, at which point the interloper is pecked to death by the offended mother. Other particularly detailed chapters deal with the whales, sea lions, elephant seals, and orcas that make the peninsula their home. Also of interest is the last chapter, in which the author describes her experiences in the writing of this book. This book provides not only a superb set of photographs of Patagonian wildlife, but vignettes on their behavior, breeding habits, enemies, and the toll, if any, that human tourism takes on the species. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is even remotely interested in the subject.

Patagonia. The name always meant mystery and romance to me: a remote, little-peopled areasouth of civilization, beyond the reaches of normal travel routes; a place where naturestill exists without statues and monumentsand histories of kings and great empires. After reading Jasmine Rossi's picture book of the area, the mystery of Patagonia has been revealed, but the romance continues. My eyes enjoyed a feast of nature as I made my way through the book. I had difficulty reading this straight through because I kept wanting to shower my mind with the beauty and sheer rawness of the photographs, and I kept flipping through to discover what else Ms. Rossi was witness to in the wild. As hard as it was, I did read through the book sequentially, and I appreciated how well-organized the book turned out to be. Each major creature had its own section, starting with the peaceful, friendly southernright whale, then the awesome and terrible orca, then the seals and dolphins, penguins and flight birds, and small land animals. After each section I could close my eyes and still see and understand these marvelous animals. I could do this because Ms. Rossi included not only

understandable descriptions but also descriptions of how she felt, for example, when she first encountered a right whale in the water, or when she tried to photograph dusky dolphins. Animals of the sea have always fascinated me, but Ms. Rossi took me on a land trip and showed me many other curious animals, some familiar, like the skunk, but others completely unknown until this book, like Darwin's Rhea. My favorite tidbit about the book is that Jasmine Rossi is not a professional marine biologist who spent years among her objects of study; she was simply an observer with a camera and notebook. Who says that great discoveries are of the past of Magellan and Darwin? I may not ever get to visit Patagonia, but when I'm sipping a hot drink on a cold winter day, I can pull out the book, look at the pictures, and take a trip to a land far away down under.

Really nice. Wonderfull picture, interesting information mixed with personal experiencies from the author

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