

Patagonia Best Hikes

13 days hiking trip to the highlights of Patagonia

Experience this 13-day hiking trip to see the highlights of Patagonia. Who hasn't heard of the world renowned Torres del Paine, Monte Fitz Roy or the Perito Moreno Glacier?

On guided hikes through the most beautiful national parks of the region, explore natural miracles and the mountain world of Patagonia and dive into a world of granite rock and ice. Admire the famous Grey Glacier and take a boat ride to the deep blue shining Perito Moreno Glacier. Learn more about this impressive ice field of the southern hemisphere. Soak up some of the cultural highlights and enjoy tasty Chilean and Argentinian cuisine and wines.

Trip Highlights:

- Hike in 5 days one of the most famous treks in Patagonia, the Torres del Paine W-Trek and immerse yourself in a world of granite and ice
- Torres del Paine granite towers, French valley and Grey Glacier lookout
- Boat ride along the Grey Glacier
- Patagonian Pampa and Gauchos

- Hike to the rock spire of the mystic Cerro Torre and the legendary Monte Fitz Roy
- Discover the perpetual ice of the Perito Moreno Glacier and take a boat ride across the Argentino Lake
- Patagonian Icefield
- Local wildlife: guanacos, condors and ñandus
- Relish the local cuisine, Argentinian steak, empanadas (filled dumplings) & Malbec red wine
- Explore the capital of the glaciers El Calafate and the picturesque mountain village El Chaltén

Insider Tip:

- Paddle between huge icebergs on the Grey Lake and hear the creaking movements of the vast Grey Glacier
- Visit the Glaciarium ice museum and ice bar near El Calafate

Trip Info:

Trip length:	13 days
Start/End of the trip:	from Puerto Natales / to Puerto Natales or to El Calafate
Group Size:	min. 2 / max. 12 people
Departures:	see set departures on our website
Trip Style:	Hiking, nature & culinary experiences
Best Season:	from November to March

What's included:

- Accommodation in Torres del Paine National Park: *4 nights in 2-person-tents*, fully equipped with sleeping bag and camping mat.
- Accommodation in Puerto Natales: *2 nights* in a hotel in double room with private bathroom
- Accommodation in El Calafate & El Chaltén: *6 nights* in hotels/hosterias in double room with private bathroom
- Meals: 12 x breakfast, 6 x box lunch on hiking days, 4 x dinner
- Guide:
 - Local English / Spanish speaking certified trekking guide Torres del Paine NP (day 2 - 6) (WFR)
 - from 7 participants: English/Spanish speaking certified assistant hiking guide (day 2 - 6) (WFR)
 - Local English / Spanish speaking certified trekking guide El Chaltén (day 9 and 10) (WFR) and during the excursion to the Perito Moreno Glacier (day 12)
- 7 guided hikes
- Transport: all public and private transfers as per the detailed itinerary
- Boat ride / Catamaran Grey Lake
- Boat ride across the Argentino Lake
- Entry Fees/Admission: to the Torres del Paine National Park and to the Los Glaciares National Park
- Emergency equipment: including a first-aid kit and VHF-equipment

What's excluded:

- Meals and beverages not indicated on the itinerary
- Tour guide on the days of transfer
- Airport TRF IN/OUT
- Optional trips, e.g. half day kayak tour on the Grey Lake (appr. 200 USD p.p.) or half day ice hike on Glacier Grey (appr. 270 USD p.p.) on day 5, or optional excursions on day 11
- Tips, local payments
- International and domestic airfare and airport charges
- Travel insurance is not included in this tour. Travel insurance is mandatory and must be purchased prior to the start of the trip.

Itinerary:**Day 1 – Arrival in Puerto Natales**

Upon arrival at the hotel or guesthouse in Puerto Natales, you will have time to explore this little town on your own. In good weather, the first impressive panorama of the Paine Massif and Monte Balmaceda can be seen from here. In the evening you meet your trekking guide for a short briefing about the next days. You spend the first night in a hotel in Puerto Natales in double room with private bathroom. (-/-/-)

Day 2 – Torres del Paine National Park – Trek to the Torres del Paine Granit Needles

In the morning you take a private bus ride to the Torres del Paine National Park and will see some of the native wildlife of this fantastic region like Guanacos and Ñandus. Upon arrival your first hike leads you to the famous 'Torres' granite needles. At first you hike up to the Ascencio Valley where you take a break at the Refugio Chileno next to the Ascencio River. After 2+ hours and a tough ascent, you are rewarded for your efforts: You will stand in front of the impressive Needles with a green lagoon lying at your feet. Altitude Las Torres Lookout: 900m. Appr. walking time: 8 hours, walking distance: 19 km (11,8 miles), elevation gain of approx. 950 m (3,116 ft) ascent and descent. You spend the night on campsite Central in fully equipped 2-person-tents with unobstructed views of the starry sky. (B/-/D)

Day 3 – Hike along Nordenskjöld Lake

Today, you hike along Lago Nordenskjöld and the gigantic Monte Almirante Nieto to the wonderful campsite Cuernos, close to the lake and the "Cuernos" or "the Horns". Near the camp you will have a picturesque view on the Paine Grande massif. There will be enough time to enjoy this inviting campsite while sitting together and sharing your one-time impressions. Appr. walking time: 4-5 hours, walking distance: 11,5 km (7,1 miles), elevation gain of approx. 250 m (820 ft) ascent and descent. Overnight: in fully equipped 2-person-tents on campsite Cuernos or Frances. (B/BL/D)

Alternativ itinerary (if the campsites Cuernos and Frances are fully booked):

Today you go on a half day hike along Nordenskjöld Lake with its colorful waters. Passing Monte Almirante Nieto (2,640 m), you can probably watch condors circling in the sky. Appr. walking time: 4 hours, walking distance: 10 km (6 miles).

In the afternoon you continue your journey in a public transfer to "Pudeto sector" (approx. one hour panoramic trip). Afterwards, you cross the beautiful Pehoe Lake with a catamaran (approx. 30 min). The Lodge / Camp Paine Grande will be your "base camp" for the next two days.

Overnight: on "Campsite Paine Grande" in fully equipped 2-person-tents. (B/BL/D)

Day 4 – Trek to the French Valley

Today you will hike up to the camp Italiano. From there you walk further up until you reach a superb viewpoint of the Valley Frances. You will see the impressive "Circuito de Granito" which looks like a colosseum. Afterwards you descent to the next campsite near the emerald green Lago Pehoe. Appr. walking time: 6-7 hours, walking distance: 17 km (10,5 miles), elevation gain of approx. 600 m (1,970 ft) ascent and descent. Overnight: in fully equipped 2-person-tents on campsite Paine Grande. (B/BL/D)

Day 5 – Trek to the Grey Glacier - Optional Kayak tour or Ice hike

Today you continue to the "Camino de los Vientos" until you reach a nice viewpoint from where you can admire a striking view over the Glacier Grey. Afterwards, you scale down along the impressive Grey Lake to your next camp.

In the afternoon you can choose an optional 3 hours kayak excursion on the Grey Lake along the icebergs of the Grey Glacier or a 4-5 hours ice hike on Glacier Grey (extra costs; reservation recommended in advance) - or enjoy some free time to relax.

Appr. walking time: 5 hours, walking distance: 12 km (7,5 miles), elevation gain of approx. 350 m (1,150 ft) ascent and descent. Overnight: in tents on campsite Grey. (B/BL/D)

Day 6 – Boat Ride Lago Grey – Puerto Natales

In the morning you take a boat ride on the splendid Lago Grey passing along the icy glacier and crossing the beautiful lake. Appr. walking time: 0,5 hours. Subsequently you take a private transfer back to Puerto Natales. Overnight: Hotel in Puerto Natales in double room with private bathroom. (B/BL/-)

Day 7 – Puerto Natales – El Calafate

Transfer with a regular bus through the wind shaped Pampa to El Calafate in Argentina (without a guide, driving time including border formalities approx. 5-6 hours, driving distance approx. 270 km). In the afternoon you have time for shopping or for trying one of the famous Argentine steaks. The bird sanctuary "Laguna Nimez" on Lago Argentino also invites you to visit. Overnight: Hotel in El Calafate in double room with private bathroom. (B/-/-)

Day 8 – El Calafate – El Chaltén

Today you are heading to El Chaltén with a regular bus (without a guide, driving time approx. 3 hours, driving distance approx. 215 km), taking a break at the Estancia La Leona. El Chaltén is a lovely village in the mountains that will be your starting point for the next days. In the afternoon you have some time to discover this idyllic place on our own or to do a short hike to the waterfall "Chorrillo del Salto". Overnight: Hotel in El Chaltén in double room with private bathroom. (B/-/-)

Day 9 – El Chaltén – Cerro Torre Trek

In the morning you will meet your trekking-guide for the next hikes. A 6-hours guided walk leads you to Laguna Torre where you have a great view to the Cerro Torre (3,102m / 10,180 ft) with its glaciers. Later on, you take a break at the Agostini Camp that is the base camp for all Cerro Torre mountaineers. Appr. walking time: 6 hours, walking distance: 18 km (11 miles), elevation gain of approx. 250 m (820 ft) ascent and descent. Overnight: Hotel in El Chaltén in double room with private bathroom. (B/BL/-)

Day 10 – Trek to Laguna de los tres – Monte Fitz Roy Trek

Approx. 30-40 minute panoramic drive (in a shared transfer) to the starting point of the hike.

Today you hike to Laguna de los Tres and the viewpoint of Laguna Sucia. You also pass the Base Camp Rio Blanco that serves all Fitz Roy Mountaineers. Your efforts will be rewarded with an unforgettable view on the Monte Fitz Roy (3,406 m / 11,175 ft) and the surrounding mountains. Appr. walking time: 8 hours, walking distance: 24 km (14,9 miles), elevation gain of approx. 750 m (2,460 ft) ascent and descent.

Overnight: Hotel in El Chaltén in double room with private bathroom. (B/BL/-)

Day 11 – El Chaltén – Optional Trips – Back to El Calafate

Today you can go on a full day hike to "Loma del Pliegue Tumbado" (highly recommended in good weather) or you can choose an optional half day or full day excursion to the lake "Lago del Desierto". Or you have some time to discover this pristine place on your own and go on short hikes to the viewpoints "Condores & Aguilas".

In the evening you get back to El Calafate with the regular bus (without a guide, driving time approx. 3 hours, driving distance approx. 215 km).

Overnight: Hotel in El Calafate in double room with private bathroom. (B/-/-)

Day 12 – Full day Perito Moreno Glacier

Today, you participate in a full day guided and shared excursion to the incomparable Perito Moreno Glacier in the Los Glaciers National Park that is part of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. If you are lucky you will witness the glacier calving. Altitude Perito Moreno Glacier Lookout: 200m (660 ft). Furthermore, you take a boat ride over the Argentine Lake along the imposing ice walls of the glacier (appr. 1 hour).

Driving time approx. 2 x 1.5 hours, driving distance 2 x 80 km. Overnight: Hotel in El Calafate. (B/-/-)

Day 13 – Back to Puerto Natales

You travel from Argentina back to Puerto Natales, Chile on a regular bus (without a guide) and you will continue your individual journey. Or: you will continue your individual journey from of El Calafate. (B/-/-)

Notes for the Torres del Paine W-Hike:

- Very good physical fitness is a necessary requirement for this tour.
- Furthermore, you should be able to walk with your daypack (40l to 50l) up to 6-8 hours a day with some strenuous ascents and descents.
- Your personal items must be carried by you (rain gear, fleece or light down jacket, trekking poles, gloves, cap, camera, lunch and water for the day; in Torres del Paine in addition vanity bag, extra-set of clothes).
- All the rest of your luggage, which you do not need on the Torres del Paine trek, will stay locked at your hotel in Puerto Natales.
- You will spend 4 nights in 2-person-tents, rented from the Refugio; sleeping bag and camping mat are included. All campsites are equipped with toilets, showers and refugios (Mountain huts/Lodges). Breakfast and dinner are served in the dining rooms of the Refugios/mountain huts which are always close to the campsites.

Notes for the Cerro Torre & Fitz Roy Treks:

- On the day hikes you need to carry just your own day-backpack.
- The following items and clothing are packed in the daypack: Rain jacket, rain pants, fleece or light down jacket, gloves, beanie, trekking poles, camera, lunch, sun cream, sun hat and water for the day.
- The rest of your luggage, which you do not need during the day hikes, stays locked at your hotel room in El Chaltén.

Gear Checklist Patagonia Best Hikes:

Official Papers

- Valid passport
- Airline tickets
- Vaccination card
- Cash (USD) / credit card and/or debit card

Luggage

- Duffel bag or travel bag or suitcase, big enough for the remaining luggage, which you do not need on the Torres del Paine trek (to be stored / locked at your hotel in Puerto Natales)
- Backpack (40 – 50 liter) for the trekking days
- Rain cover for your backpack
- Luggage tags
- Passport pouch, wallet or money belt

Clothing

Bring a few lightweight, easily washable items - for using as layer clothing system "onion principle"

- Hiking pants, lightweight, synthetic and loose-fitting – quick dry
- Hiking shorts, lightweight and synthetic
- Shirts (long sleeve)
- T-Shirts, synthetic
- Polypropylen Underwear or similar
- Hiking socks, blister-free

- Rain jacket, waterproof and breathable (Goretex, Sympatex etc.)
- Rain pants, waterproof and breathable, side-zip pants are highly recommended
- Windstopper-Fleecejacket - Sweater
- Light Down or synthetic Jacket

Clothing Accessories

- Sun hat
- Hat (warm) - Beanie
- Bandana – Scarf
- Gloves – Fleece

Footwear

- Sturdy hiking boots, waterproof, lightweight, broken in, aggressive tread - over ankle
- Sandals or flip-flop (thongs)

Travel Accessories

- Water bottle – 500ml-750ml (throughout the treks you can refill water appr every two hours in the little creeks)
- Headlamp or Meg lite
- Sunglasses and retainer strap
- Sun blocker + 20 and lip balm
- Toiletry kit
- Towel
- Hand sanitizer gel
- Personal prescription medication
- Insect repellent / Mosquito repellent
- Watch with alarm or travel clock
- **Trekking poles**
- **Liner for the provided sleeping bag in Torres del Paine National Park**

Optional equipment

- Camera, memory cards and batteries
- Small binoculars for bird watching
- Thermos
- Spare contact lenses or glasses
- Ear plugs
- Several Ziploc plastic bags

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

MOSER Active Trekking Team