

TORRES DEL PAINE BEST HIKES

5 days Patagonia Hiking & Nature Tour | Chile

Torres del Paine National Park is one of the most popular national parks in not just Chile but the entire Andes region, and for good reason. The peaks rise up in ragged glory, the fauna is incredibly varied and the glaciers are (still) of an astonishing length.

Explore the highlights of the famous Torres del Paine National Park on this 6-day trip. Take diverse day hikes and see the best the park has to offer. Explore the multifarious fauna and flora while you watch the gliding flight of the condor. Enjoy stunning views of the enormous mountain ranges while crossing Lake Pehoe. Hike to the best lookout points.

This tour will be an unforgettable experience for everyone who wants to discover the many-sided Patagonian beauty. Your hikes to the rising Torres Towers and to the vast Grey Glacier will stay in your minds forever as a dream of granite and ice!

Trip Highlights:

- Soft day hikes in the famous Torres del Paine National Park, the most beautiful national park in Chile
- Torres Granite Needles - French Valley - Grey Glacier Lookout & Patagonian Icefield
- Panoramic boat trip: Catamaran on the beautiful, emerald green Pehoe Lake
- Local wildlife: guanacos, condors and ñandus in the windy Patagonian steppe

Trip Info:

Trip length:	5 days
Start/End of the trip:	from / to Puerto Natales
Group Size:	min. 2 / max. 12 people
Departures:	see set departures on our website <u>or</u> individual on request (with the possibility to book other people on this trip)
Trip Style:	Hiking & nature
Best season:	from November to March

What's included:

- Accommodation in Torres del Paine National Park: 2 nights in roomy, high quality 2-person-tents (equipped with sleeping bag and sleeping mats)
- Accommodation in Puerto Natales: 2 nights in a guesthouse in double room with private bathroom
- Meals: 4 x breakfast, 2 x box lunch, 2 x dinner
- Guide:
 - Local English / Spanish speaking certified trekking guide Torres del Paine (Day 2 - 4) (WFR)
 - From 7 participants: Local English/Spanish speaking certified assistant guide (day 2 - 4)
- 3 guided hikes
- Transport: all public and private transfers as per the detailed itinerary
- Boat rides / Catamaran Pehoe Lake
- Entry Fees/Admission: to the Torres del Paine National Park
- Emergency equipment: including a first-aid kit and VHF-equipment

What's excluded:

- Single supplement: 2 nights in guesthouse - extra charge p.p. 100 USD
- Meals and beverages not indicated on the itinerary
- Airport or bus station pick up & drop off
- International and domestic airfare and airport charges
- Tips, Optional trips, local payments
- 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

After arriving at the 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 late afternoon you meet your trekking guide for a short briefing about the next days. Overnight: You spend the first night in a guesthouse in Puerto Natales in double room with private bathroom. (-/-/-)

Day 2 – Torres del Paine National Park - Hike to the Viewpoint Grey Glacier

In the morning you take a regular bus to the Torres del Paine Nationalpark and will see some of the native wildlife of this fantastic region like Guanacos and Ñandus. Upon arrival in the park 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. In the afternoon you walk along the Black Lagoon (Laguna Negra) and the Path of Winds (Camino del Viento) to the viewpoint on the Grey Glacier. Depending on weather and season you come across various birds and plants.

You have more or less 4 hours to walk and an elevation of approx. 350m. walking distance: 12 km (7,5 miles)
Overnight: on campsite Paine Grande in tents (fully equipped). (B/-/D)

Day 3 – Torres del Paine National Park – Hike to the French Valley

Today, you walk along the splendourous Lago Skottsberg to Campamento Italiano. Subsequently you move towards the French valley and its viewpoint "Mirador" where you gain deep insight into the mountains. With a bit of luck you witness ice cracking off the Paine Grande (3,050m) sounding like a roaring thunder. After 6-7 hours of walking you come back to Camp Paine Grande on Lago Pehoe. Walking distance: 18 km (11 miles), elevation gain is about 600m ascent/descent.

Overnight: on campsite Paine Grande in tents (fully equipped). (B/BL/D)

Day 4 – Panorama Boat ride – Trek to the Torres del Paine Granite Needles – Puerto Natales

In the morning you cross Lake Pehoe again with the catamaran (approx. 30 min) and continue your journey in a private transfer to the Las Torres sector (approx. one hour panoramic trip).

Afterwards, you will hike to get an excellent view on the no. 1 highlight: The famous Torres Towers. At first it leads you up to the Ascencio Valley where you take a break at the Refugio Chileno next to the lovely 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 (2,950 ft).

Appr. walking time: 8 hours, walking distance: 19 km (11,8 miles), elevation gain of approx. 950 m (3,120 ft) ascent and descent.

After this challenging hike you take our private transfer back to Puerto Natales and say goodbye to our local trekking guide (driving time 2 hours, driving distance approx. 130 km). Arrival at the guest house between 9pm and 10pm.

Overnight: Guesthouse in Puerto Natales in double room with private bathroom. (B/BL/-)

Day 5 – Goodbye Puerto Natales

After breakfast, you will continue your individual journey. (B/-/-)

Trip Notes:

- A very good physical fitness is a necessary requirement for this tour.
- Furthermore, you should be able to walk with your daypack (30 to 40 liter) up to 6-8 hours a day with some strenuous ascents and descents.
- 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.
- On all hiking days starting point and finish is the same!
- You will spend the 2 nights in Torres del Paine National Park in roomy, high quality 2-person-expedition-tents (equipped with sleeping bag and sleeping mats).
- 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.
- All the rest of your luggage, which you do not need on the Torres del Paine trek, will stay locked at your guesthouse in Puerto Natales.

Gear Checklist Torres del Paine 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 (35 liter) for the hiking days
- Rain cover for your backpack
- Luggage tags
- Passport pouch 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