

TORRES DEL PAINE W-HIKE 6 DAYS

Hiking in Torres del Paine National Park - Chile

Explore the highlights of the famous Torres del Paine National Park on distinct hikes over four days. Discover the many sides of the famed Patagonian natural beauty!

Experience the diverse fauna and flora while you watch the gliding flight of the condor and enjoy the stunning views of the enormous mountain range while crossing Lake Pehoe. Stay in classic local refugios in the evenings and visit the the rising Torres Towers and the vast Grey Glacier by day. This tour is an unforgettable experience for any outdoor enthusiast or adventurer who wants to discover Patagonia.

Trip Highlights

- Hike **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
- **Meet Chilean Gauchos** riding through the vast Patagonian Pampa and watch the gliding flight of the condor
- Enjoy in a cozy atmosphere the **culinary delights and exquisite wines of Patagonia**, or go for a pisco sour, the Chilean national drink

Insider Tip

- Visit Torres del Paine National Park in Indian summer (**April/May**) or in winter between **June and September**. The trails are less crowded, the scenery is awesome and it is easier to observe wildlife and do bird watching.

Trip Info

Trip length:	6 days
Start/End of the trip:	from / to Puerto Natales
Group Size:	min. 2 persons – 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 & photography
Best Season:	from October to April

What's included

- Accommodation in Torres del Paine National Park: 3 nights in Lodges/Refugios with shared bedrooms and shared bathrooms (**Note:** If the Lodges/Refugios are fully booked, you will spend the night in 2-person-tents, rented from the Lodge; sleeping bag and camping mat are included)
- Accommodation in Puerto Natales: 2 nights in a hotel or guesthouse in double room with private bathroom
- Meals: 5 x breakfast, 3 x box lunch, 3 x dinner
- Guide:
 - Local English / Spanish speaking certified trekking guide Torres del Paine (day 2 - 5)
 - from 7 participants: English/Spanish speaking certified assistant hiking guide (day 2 - 5) (WFR)
- Transport: all private and public transfers as per the detailed itinerary
- Boat ride / 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

- Private transfer IN/OUT Torres del Paine National Park - extra charge p.P. 150 USD
- Airport pick up & drop off
- Meals and beverages not indicated on the itinerary
- 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 some 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. 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 Torres del Paine Granit Needles

In the morning you take a regular bus 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 in the park 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 your efforts will be rewarded: 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 (3,116 ft) ascent and descent.

Overnight: in the "Refugio Torre" in shared bedrooms with shared bathrooms. Note: If the lodges (refugios) are fully booked, you will spend the night in fully equipped 2-person-tents. (B/-/D)

Day 3 – Hike along Lago Nordenskjöld

Today, you hike along Nordenskjöld Lake to the wonderful Refugio Los Cuernos, close to the lake and the montes "Cuernos". Passing Monte Almirante Nieto (2,640 m / 8,660 ft), you can probably watch condors circling in the sky. 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 the "Refugio Los Cuernos" or "Refugio Frances" in shared bedrooms with shared bathrooms. Note: If the refugios are fully booked, you will spend the night in fully equipped 2-person-tents. (B/BL/D)

Alternativ itinerary (if the refugios / 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: in the "Lodge Paine Grande" in shared bedrooms with shared bathrooms. Note: If the lodge is fully booked, you will spend the night in fully equipped 2-person-tents. (B/BL/D)

Day 4 – Hike to the French Valley

In the morning you head towards the French valley and its viewpoint "Mirador" where you gain deep insight into the mountains. With a bit of luck, you may witness ice cracking off the Paine Grande (3,050 m / 10,000 ft) sounding like a roaring thunder. Subsequently you walk along the splendid Lago Skottsberg to 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 the "Lodge Paine Grande" in shared bedrooms and shared bathrooms. Note: If the lodge is fully booked, you will spend the night in fully equipped 2-person-tents. (B/BL/D)

Day 5 – Hike to the Grey Glacier Lookout – Puerto Natales

Today you walk along the Black Lagoon (Laguna Negra) and the Path of Winds (Camino del Viento) to your viewpoint on the Grey Glacier. Depending on the weather and season you will come across various birds and plants. You hike back to the Lodge Paine Grande, cross the beautiful Pehoe-Lake with a catamaran (approx. 30 min) and take the regular bus back to Puerto Natales and say goodbye to our local trekking-guide.

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

Appr. walking time: 4-5 hours, walking distance: 12 km (7,5 miles), elevation gain of approx. 350 m (1,150 ft) ascent and descent.

Day 6 – 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 (40 to 50 liter) 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 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.

Please note:

There are no single or double rooms in the Refugios/Lodges of Torres del Paine National Park.

If the lodges (refugios) are fully booked, you will spend the night in 2-person-tents, rented from the Refugio; sleeping bag and camping mat are included.

Gear Checklist Torres del Paine W-Hike:

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 trek
- 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
- Windstopper-Fleecejacket - Sweater
- Rain jacket, waterproof and breathable (Goretex, Sympatex etc.)
- Rain pants, waterproof and breathable, side-zip pants are highly recommended
- 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

Optional equipment

- **Liners** for the three nights in Torres del Paine National Park
- Camera / memory cards, smartphone
- Charger (recharging is possible almost every day)
- 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