



**PAINE BIG CIRCUIT (10D/9N) (PBC) 2011 - 2012**  
2N Hostel – 7N Camping  
Start/end Punta Arenas

*This is the most famous trekking route of Patagonia in Torres Del Paine National Park. Hiking an average of seven hours daily in a circuit covering over hundred kilometers, you'll encounter Granite Mountains, endless glaciers, turquoise colored lakes, and the most impressive views of the Southern Ice Field. You have the chance to do an ice hike on the Glacier Grey and climb a glacier wall with technical equipment. This adventure will carry you through a windy world of unexpected weather changes, and provide you with a chance to enjoy a variety of wildlife.*

**Day 1**

We recommend you take the early flight from Santiago to Punta Arenas (4 hours), flying over the Andes and observing incredible views of the Patagonian Ice Fields. Upon your arrival in Punta Arenas, the most southern city on the continent, a private transfer will be waiting to take you to Puerto Natales. (Chile Nativo will offer a pick-up from the airport at 02:25 PM, corresponding with LAN airline, Flight # LA285, or at 02 PM from your hotel in town). *(Flight numbers and times subject to change)*

As we leave Punta Arenas we will be able to see the Strait of Magellan and the island Tierra del Fuego. Shortly after leaving the airport, we will stop at the Magellan penguin colony on Otway Sound. Our 3-hour drive will take us through open pampas and huge ranches (estancias) and chances are we will be able to observe one of the most typical animals in this area, the ñandu, (similar to ostrich). We arrive to Puerto Natales, located on the Sound of Last Hope, a typical fishing town surrounded by mountains. After we settle in, we'll have a welcome dinner with the Chile Nativo guide regarding the program.



**(4 hours by private transfer, 45 minutes walk at the Penguin colony) (D) (Night at Amerindia Hostel or similar)**

**Day 2**

At 8:30 AM we pick you up at your lodging in Puerto Natales. Our transfer takes us along an unpaved road heading to Torres Del Paine. When entering the Park, we will have excellent picture taking opportunities of guanacos (llama family) and Grey foxes, driving alongside lagoons frequented by Chilean flamencos and black-necked swans. We will start our first day trekking to the base of the Towers, following the Ascencio River to enter the Ascencio Valley. Our walk will be uphill for one hour before stopping to observe the first glimpses of the valley surrounded by unbelievable beech forests (Nothofagus family), glaciers and waterfalls. We'll continue through the valley for another hour and a half before ascending a huge terminal moraine to a lookout (900 M), excellent for picture taking. At this point we will be surrounded by three giant granite towers (2850 M) and a lagoon with slurry waters due to erosion produced by glaciers. This amazing view will be accompanied by lunch to add to the enjoyment. After being awed by the towers we'll start our descent, following the same path back to our camp.



**(2 hours by private transfer, 7-8 hours round-trip, 18 KM) (B-BL-D) (Night at Camping Torres)**

**Day 3** We will begin this day early morning, and weather permitting, to enjoy an impressive view of the Tower's peaks painted with orange light. We will start our walk through a very old tall deciduous beech forest with the chance to see a woodpecker or fresh puma tracks. We follow a well marked trail, slightly sloping, that will lead us to an excellent viewpoint of Paine Chico Mountain in the distance, to finally arrive at the Serón camp site where we will set up our camp and enjoy a good dinner.  
**(4-5 hours, 9 KM) (B-BL-D) (Night at Serón Campsite)**



**Day 4** This is the easiest span but especially interesting for flower lovers who, depending on the season, will see orchids, calceolarias, violets and oxalis. We will go around Paine Lake along a flattish path with views of many mountains, including Cerro Escudo (The Shield) and Cerro Cabeza del Indio (Indian Head Mountain -the profile of an Indian is observed in the rocks). Lastly we will arrive at the beginning of the Paine River, from where we will be able to see the incredible Cerro Cubo (Cube Mountain) and Dickson Lake.  
**(6-7 hours, 18.5 KM) (B-BL-D) (Night at Camping Dickson)**



**Day 5** At this point we will start one of the most beautiful sections of the park, walking through some of the oldest beech forests, along an undulating path, following Los Perros River, with breathtaking views of mountains, waterfalls and exuberant vegetation. We will cross a hanging bridge over Los Perros River to arrive at the terminal moraine of the hanging glacier, giving birth to a lagoon with sedimentary waters. Half an hour from this point is Los Perros campsite where we will stay overnight.  
**(5 hours, 9 KM) (B-BL-D) (Night at Los Perros Campsite)**

**Day 6** This is the most difficult day of the whole circuit, but at the same time has a dramatic beauty worthy of the effort. We will head up on a pronounced path through forests to arrive at a swamp area, keeping us busy for a couple of hours. We will continue ascending, maybe finding some snow, until coming to the John Garner pass at 1200MTS above sea level. From here we have an outstanding view of the Grey Glacier and the Southern Ice Field, with its many unclimbed peaks. We will head off alongside the glacier, on an up and down path through fallen trees, contrasting with the exuberance of the Nothofagus forests, walking underneath the Cordon Olguin with its huge thick granite walls. If lucky enough we will see ice calving from the front wall of the Grey Glacier, before ending up on a beach of sedimentary sand where we will spend the night.  
**(9-10 hours, 22 KM) (B-BL-D) (Night at Camping Grey)**



**Day 7** Today you have the opportunity to take an optional adventure on the Glacier Grey. **(The Ice Hike excursion is not included in the price; US\$ 140 per person APROX.)** The ice hikers will take a zodiac for 20 minutes until arriving on the western side of the glacier, where specialized guides will supply you with the necessary technical equipment (crampons, harness and piolet). You will walk on the glacier, observing unique deep blue cracks, where, weather permitting, will have the opportunity of doing some ice climbing. The way back will be the same until arriving back at the refugio to enjoy lunch. In the afternoon we start our walk to the Pehoé Lake. **(Optional Ice Hike: 1 hour by zodiac, 3 hour ice hike and 3 ½ hours walk, 11 KM). (B-L-D) (Night at Camping Paine Grande)**



**Day 8** After a good breakfast we commence our out and back trek to the French valley. We will start going around the south-west side of Paine Grande, the highest summit in the Park, through native forests of fire bush and evergreen beech (*Nothofagus Bethuloides*), up to the hanging bridge over the French River to observe the first glimpses of the glacier. Then we will ascend (300m) for one hour amidst a surreal Japanese garden landscape, crossing beech forests, to reach a view point, gifting us with magnificent panoramic views, where we enjoy a good lunch. We will take the same path back to our campsite. **(6-7 hours, 17 KM) (B-BL-D) (Night at Camping Paine Grande)**



**Day 9** After a leisure morning in the camp, we will take a catamaran at noon to cross the Pehoe Lake, and then drive back on a different road all the way to Puerto Natales. On the way we will make a short stop at the Visitor center of the National park and several lookout points of the park and we visit the Milodon cave monument. **(35 minutes by catamaran, 2 hours by private transfer) (B-BL) (Night at Amerindia Hostel or similar)**

**Day 10** Early in the morning you will take a private transfer to Punta Arenas. **(Clients should take the flight at noon or later)**, if you decide to stay the night in Punta Arenas; we will drop you at your hotel. **(2.5 hour by transfer) (B)**

**REGARDING THE SCHEDULE**

The schedules indicated above are subject to change due to weather conditions or unexpected circumstances beyond our control, but we will try our best to keep them unaltered

<b>PRICE</b>	<b>1 passenger</b>	<b>2 passengers</b>	<b>3 passengers</b>	<b>4 – 8 passengers</b>
<b>Per person</b>	<b>USD \$ 4.595</b>	<b>USD \$ 2.895</b>	<b>USD \$ 2.795</b>	<b>USD \$ 2.595</b>

**EXTRA COST FOR OPTIONAL LODGINGS:**

If you like to avoid camping for most of the days, you can choose from the following alternatives, subject to availability:

**Day 2: Refugio Torre central:** Comfortable Mountain lodge, with 6 beds per room (bunk beds): **USD \$ 40 per bed per night.**

**Day 4 & 6: Refugio Dickson & Grey:** Comfortable Mountain lodge, with 6 beds per room (bunk beds): **USD \$ 30 per bed per night.**

**Day 7-8: Lodge Paine Grande:** Comfortable Mountain Lodge, with 6 beds per room (bunk beds): **USD \$ 45 per bed per night.**

<b>INCLUDED</b>	<b>NOT INCLUDED</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-All the private transportation indicated in the schedule</li><li>-All meals indicated in the schedule (B: breakfast, BL: box lunch, L: Lunch, D: dinner)</li><li>-Entrance fee to Seno Otway penguin colony</li><li>-Two night in Hostel Natales (based on double and triple rooms) (Private bathroom)</li><li>-Entrance to Torres del Paine National Park</li><li>-7 nights lodging at Chile Nativo camp.</li><li>North Face VE 25 tents (Based on double occupancy)</li><li>-Porters to carry the camping gear and the food</li><li>-Catamaran to cross Pehoe Lake</li><li>-Entrance fee to the Milodon Cave Monument</li><li>-Guide (English-Spanish languages)</li><li>-Guide ratio: 1:5 guests</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Any additional nights</li><li>-Medical expenses</li><li>-Insurance of any kind</li><li>-Personal expenses</li><li>-Sleeping bag and mattress</li><li>-Lunch on Days 1 &amp; 10</li><li>-Dinner on day 9</li><li>-Ice Hike on Grey glacier with technical equipment (Cost per person USD \$ 140)</li><li>-Porters to carry personal belongings, which include sleeping bag and mattress, (available upon request, cost of USD \$ 90 per day with a maximum of 15K per porter, usually good to share one in between two hikers)</li><li>-Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks except the ones include in the menus</li><li>-Gratuities for guide &amp; porters</li></ul>