



W TREK – TORRES DEL PAINE (5D/4N) (WTNAT)
Hut to Hut
Start/end Puerto Natales

DEPARTURE DATES:
EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM OCTOBER 01, 2008 – APRIL 29, 2009

For those guest who don't have too much time, this is a great option to hike the complete W trek, staying every night in comfortable mountain huts, and visiting the three main valley of the park: the lookout point of the towers at the Ascencio valley, hanging glaciers at the French Valley and the Grey Valley with the impressive glacier at the end.

Day 1

Starting from Puerto Natales at 12 PM or from Cerro Castillo at 1PM, we drive all the way to Torres del Paine National Park. We will drive 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, (rare South American ostrich). We will follow an unpaved road heading to Refugio Las Torres to spend our first night. Upon entering the park we will have excellent photographic and birding opportunities as we drive alongside lagoons frequented by Chilean flamencos and black-necked swans. Today's hike is on a gentle trail following the border of the park and offers opportunities to see guanacos (Llama family) and the Andean Condor.



(2 hours by private transfer, 2 hours soft hike) (D) (Night at Refugio Las Torres)

Day 2



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 the hut.

(7-8 hours round-trip, 18 KM) (B-BL-D) (Night at Refugio Las Torres)

Day 3

We will start early morning to enjoy, weather permitting, a magnificent dawn filled with orange-pink colors. As we leave the campground we will arrive at Inge lagoon. Chances are, on this path, we may see the flight of an Andean condor or eagles hunting hares or small rodents. We follow a well mark trail ascending around (200 mts.) from the base of Almirante Nieto Mountain (2750 mts.), crossing the Bader River to arrive at Refugio Los Cuernos where we will stay overnight.



(500 mts. difference of level, 6 hours, 17 kms.) (B-BL-D) (Night at Refugio Los Cuernos)

Day 4



We will start our day with a 2-hour walk going to an undulating path until reaching the French River for our first glimpses of the hanging glacier. Then we will ascend (300 M) for one hour through a surreal Japanese garden landscape, crossing beech forests, to reach the French valley viewpoint gifting us with a magnificent view of both mountains and lakes. We will lunch here with good possibilities of seeing avalanches from the hanging glacier or simply observe the west side of the Cuernos (2600 M), Espada (2400 M) and Fortaleza (2800 M). Our way back will be the same until we reach the entrance of the valley where we will continue on a different path around the South-West side of Paine Grande, the highest peak in the Park, through native forests of Chilean fire bush and evergreen beech (Nothofagus Bethuloides), up to the shore of the Pehoé Lake.

(6 hours hiking, 18 KM). (B-BL-D) (Night at Refugio Paine Grande)

Day 5

We will begin early morning with our hike to the Grey Glacier. Initially we will ascend 200mts up a winding narrow path leading us to Laguna Negra, and our first glimpses of the Southern Patagonia Ice Field with its many unclimbed mountains. We will advance through forests and crossing rivers, with possible sightings of spectacle and flying steamer ducks, up to the glacier view point. We will enjoy lunch at this place and if we are lucky, witness ice calving from the huge glacier wall into Lake Grey. We return, following the same path, with views of Cordon Olguin and Paine Grande, to reach the last catamaran, and our transfer back to Puerto Natales.



(7-8 hours walking, 22 KM, 35 minutes by catamaran, 2 hours by transfer) (B-BL)

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

	<i>PRICE</i>	<i>1 passenger</i>	<i>2 passengers</i>	<i>4- 8 passengers</i>
<i>Per person</i>		USD \$ 1.995	USD \$ 1.495	USD \$ 1.295

INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All the private transportation indicated in the schedule -Entrance fee to Torres del Paine National Park -Four nights lodging in mountain lodges (Refugios) (comfortable rooms with 6 beds and shared bathroom) (No singles available) -Catamaran to cross Pehoe Lake -All meals indicated in the schedule (B: breakfast, BL: picnic lunch, D: dinner) -Guide (English-Spanish languages) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Any additional nights -Medical expenses -Insurance of any kind -Personal expenses -Sleeping bag -Lunch on day 1 -Dinner on day 5 -Any alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks at the Refugios -Gratuities for guide