



Winter W-Trek Torres del Paine (6D/5N) (WWNAT) (11)

Winter Program (May until September 2011)

3N in Basic Camp – 2N Mountain hut

Start / end Puerto Natales

If you're lucky enough to be in Torres Del Paine in winter, this is a great option to trek the whole path of the W trail, far away from the crowd!

We camp and cook our own meals, visiting the three main valley of the park: hiking to the lookout point of the towers on a trail cover by a thin layer or snow, hanging glaciers at the French Valley and the impressive Glacier Grey.

Weather Conditions:

Chilean Patagonia is famous for its unpredictable weather. Because of the possibility of experiencing all four seasons in one day, it is important to be prepared for anything. In winter the temperature is typically between -10°C and 10°C, but this is a dry cold. There is also a higher probability of stable weather between May and October. Also there is a chance for the trails to be covered in snow and/or ice, we recommend bringing appropriate gear to accommodate these conditions.

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 Las Torres ranch where we camp. 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 basic camp) (No bathrooms or hot showers)

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 camp, where we will prepare our dinner.



(7-8 hours round-trip, 18 KM) (B-BL-D) (Night basic camp) (No bathrooms or hot showers)

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 Camp Los Cuernos where we will stay overnight.

(500 mts. difference of level, 6 hours, 17 kms.) (B-BL-D) (Night basic camp) (No bathrooms or hot showers)



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 Pehoe Lake where we stay in a modern mountain lodge!

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

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 Olguín and Paine Grande, to reach the same hut at the Shore of Pehoe Lake to spend our second overnight.

(7-8 hours walking, 22 KM) (B-BL-D) (Night at Paine Grande Lodge)



Day 6

We start a hike following the shore of the Pehoe Lake, and later on the course of the Grey River, all the way to the administration area where a private transfer will be waiting to drive us back to Puerto Natales. We stop by the Administration area of the park, located on the edge of Lake Toro, an impressive lake of incredible colors to enjoy our picnic lunch and a short walk around the grounds before returning to Puerto Natales.



(5 hours hike, 1.5 hours 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

PRICE	1 passenger	2 - 3 passengers	4 - 5 passengers	5 - 8 passengers
Per person	USD \$ 2.395	USD \$ 1.595	USD \$ 1.395	USD \$ 1.295

INCLUDED

- All the private transportation indicated in the schedule
- Entrance fee to Torres del Paine National Park
- Three nights basic camping (North Face tents M-25)
- Two nights lodging in mountain lodges (Refugios) (comfortable rooms with 6 beds and shared bathroom)
- Porter co carry the common equipment (tents, food and cooking utensils) (Ratio: 1 porter each 2 clients)
- All meals indicated in the schedule (B: breakfast, BL: picnic lunch, D: dinner)
- Guide (English-Spanish languages)

NOT INCLUDED

- Any additional nights
- Medical expenses
- Insurance of any kind
- Personal expenses
- Sleeping bag and mattress
- Lunch on day 1
- Dinner on day 6
- Any alcoholic
- Gratuities for guide and porters