



ExChile - Welcome to the Greatest Playground on Earth!
2017-2018-2019 Season

Last Update: 9/27/2017 Chris/Adam

URL Link: <http://www.exchile.com/TrekkingPatagoniaTorresDelPaine.html>

Trip Name: Trekking in Torres del Paine National Park - the "W" Circuit

First Name:
Last Name:
Phone Number:
E-mail Address:
Number of People in the Group:
Comments:

Overview:

Come trekking in Chile's famous Torres del Paine National Park, and experience one of the most spectacular trekking destinations in the world. The granite massifs of Torres del Paine will leave you breathless as you witness the spellbinding beauty of these peaks from the numerous trails and vantage points. The famous "W" circuit lets you experience the best of Torres del Paine trekking, all from the comforts of our Patagonia Eco Camp and mountain side refugios.

[Torres del Paine](#)

[Experience Patagonia!](#) (82 secs)

Day by Day:

Day 1, Monday, The Patagonian Adventure starts

Torres del Paine NP, Chile

The trip begins with you being picked up from your hotel in Punta Arenas or Punta Arenas airport in the morning and driven to EcoCamp Patagonia, located in the world-famous Torres del Paine National Park. Alternatively you can start your trip in Calafate (see our [weekly transfer board](#) for EcoCamp's pick up & drop off schedule). En route we make a couple of stops - First in Puerto Natales, a small, lively town on the shores of "Seno de Ultima Esperanza", where we enjoy a hearty local lunch, and second at Cueva de Milodon, a massive prehistoric cave where the remains of a giant ground sloth were discovered in the 1890's. The whole journey is very scenic, with plenty of wild birds and wonderful landscapes to be seen.

The day ends with our arrival and overnight stay at EcoCamp Patagonia, nestled in the heart of the park with a view of the Torres. During summer the sun sets around 11pm, so upon arrival there's plenty of light to admire the Patagonian steppe with its guanacos and snow-peaked mountain horizon.

For more details about trek distance and walking time, click here to check out our [Trekking Chart](#) and [W Trek infographic](#).

Day 2, Tuesday, Los Cuernos

Torres del Paine NP, Chile

We start our adventure in the Park with a pleasant walk through the curly Cuernos trail located beside beautiful Lake Nordenskjold. During this appetizer walk we admire the park's exquisite flora and fauna, its strong wind and the curious, rapidly-changing weather that'll accompany us in the upcoming days. As we walk along the trail we enjoy magnificent views of the park's central lakes and the Paine's Horns, majestic black horn-like peaks of slate atop gray granite which crown the center of the Massif. The trek ends at Refugio Los Cuernos, a small and cozy mountain refuge located by the shores of Lake Nordenskjold. The evening is free for relaxing and enjoying dinner.

Day 3, Wednesday, The Paine Massif's Heart: Valle Frances

Torres del Paine NP, Chile

After breakfast, we begin a challenging trek to Valle Frances (French Valley) along a steep trail that goes into the very heart of the Paine Massif. How deep we go depends on our groups' rhythm - An active walk leads us to the hanging bridge over the French River, located at the foot of the south-eastern face of the Massif, where there is a truly wonderful view. Then we continue up the trail until reaching the upper section of the valley and admire the valley's entire group of geological formations: Hoja (Blade), Máscara (Mask), Espada (Sword), Catedral (Cathedral), Aleta de Tiburón (Shark's Fin) and the magnificent Fortaleza (Fortress). Here we picnic and rest for a while. An optional trek to Mirador Británico is available as well, if the group isn't keen on resting. Then we descend through a rippling terrain of mixed grassland and light forest until reaching Refugio Paine Grande, located on the peaceful shores of Lake Pehoe. We organise our luggage, relax and enjoy a replenishing dinner.

Day 4, Thursday, Glacier Grey

Torres del Paine NP, Chile

Today we hike from Paine Grande Refugio along the shores of Lake Pehoe to the northern end of glacial Lake Grey. We enjoy a picnic lunch before boarding the boat that sails to the blue face of Glacier Grey. There's lots of time to marvel at this calving glacier during the boat ride across this lake, with its floating pieces of ice. From Lake Grey's southern end we transfer to EcoCamp. Occasionally the weather may not permit us to sail across the lake, or during Shoulder Season (October and April) the sailing might be cancelled if the required minimum of 10 passengers isn't reached. In this case we will trek up to the sightseeing point offering a spectacular view of the Glacier. Then we'll return on foot to Paine Grande and take a catamaran to Pudeto's dock, from where we're driven back to Ecocamp.

Day 5, Friday, the big challenge: Torres del Paine

Torres del Paine NP, Chile

Time for a big breakfast and lots of enthusiasm - Our goal today is to complete the most famous trekking trail in Torres del Paine NP! We walk from the camp site towards Hostería Las Torres and join the uphill path to Ascencio Valley on the Tower's eastern face. Dry mountain spots, beech forests and small rivers line the scenic walk towards the valley. Our big challenge comes as we climb the steep moraine, a mass of boulders leading us towards one of the world's most famous views overlooking the Towers. The famous Torres del Paine (2,900 m/ 9,400 ft) consist of three gigantic granite monoliths, the remains of a great cirque sheared away by the forces of glacial ice. After an uphill slog, the Towers eventually come into full view, rising majestically before us, with the glacial lake visible below. Is there any better place in the world to have lunch? After feasting on the view and our picnic, we backtrack along the same trail through Ascencio Valley and return to EcoCamp.

Day 6, Saturday, Eastern Lakes*

Torres del Paine NP, Chile

Today is a relaxed day after yesterday's challenge. We set off leisurely after breakfast and drive to Laguna Azul passing by Cañadón Macho, home to a rich fauna including guanacos and ñandúes. We stop en route to enjoy views of the Patagonian steppe and the towers from a different angle. At Laguna Azul we hike to the viewpoint where we have a gorgeous view of both the lagoon and granite towers. After lunch we drive to the northern shore of Sarmiento Lake

where the Fauna Trail begins. As we walk northwards along the trail we see fauna on the Patagonian plains including guanacos, ostrich-like ñandús and maybe the occasional puma print! We pass by Goic lagoon and after an approximate 5 km relaxed walk we reach the Laguna Amarga ranger station where we're picked up and driven back to Ecocamp to celebrate over our farewell dinner.

*Please note that if there are more than 6 travellers in the group there's an option to split into two groups, with one group (or the whole group if everybody's in the mood!) cycling to Laguna Azul!

Day 7, Sunday, Adios Torres del Paine!

Punta Arenas, Chile

We board an early morning vehicle, sit back, relax, and enjoy a scenic ride back to Punta Arenas in time to catch the evening flight to Santiago. Or, alternatively, we board an early morning vehicle to the border to continue our journey to El Calafate.

Accommodations:

[Torres del Paine Trekking Eco Camp Slide Show](#) [Torres Eco Camp](#) (4 min)

Price and Departure Dates

Length of Trip: 6 Active Days

Price per Person: Single Occupancy \$ usd (if available)

Price per Person: Double Occupancy \$3295.00 USD usd - Prices are for reference only, please contact us to confirm pricing

Included

Your described itinerary, guiding, instruction, specialized equipment, and all transportation from your trip pick up point to your trip drop off point, all accommodation Eco Camp Domes are double occupancy), all meals, and wine with dinner.

To see the gear that we provide, please check the [packing list](#) of your activity.

Not Included

All pre and post-trip enroute transportation, food, and hotel(s).

Contingencies

Transportation: Expediciones Chile and G & G Travel and Tours are not financially responsible for travel complications associated with arriving at your trip pick up point or returning home from the trip drop off point. However, we will be your relentless ally 24/7 in offering our influence to help solve any issues that you may encounter en route. This is our part of the world and we are very well connected. Our clients provide significant business for the transportation services that we recommended and they know that we aggressively represent our guests in finding solutions while they are en route to ExChile trips. We also recommend purchasing travel insurance.

Trip Summary:

Experience Needed: Reasonable hiker

Physical Challenge: High Moderate

Season: Dec, 7 to April, 2018

Cultural Experience: Moderate

Nature Experience: Very high

Comfort Rating: Domes at Eco-Camp

Max Trip Size: 16

Min Trip Size: 4
Regions Visited: Patagonia
Lakes, rivers, and sites: Torres del Paine National Park

[How to get to and From Patagonia](#) (Interactive)

In: Punta Arenas
Out: Punta Arenas

In: Calafate
Out: Calafate

Connections can be made to and from Futaleufu through Argentina (Bariloche)
Connections can be made to and from Futaleufu through Chile (Puerto Montt)

How to organize your en route in one step: We recommend contacting Gilda ([G & G Travel and Tours](#)) who can help arrange all en route transportation and pre- and post-trip hotels for your ExChile trip. Give her a call to compare prices, as she often beats internet fares.

[Enroute Hotels](#)

Let's GO!

[Hold your spot now!](#)

Thank you,

Trip Designer: Adam Odoski and Chris Spelius

Direct line to my desk: +1.208.629.5032

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