

# ANDES MOUNTAIN EXPEDICIONES

## TORRES DEL PAINE "W" CIRCUIT-5d

**Details:**

- 5 days / 4 nights
- Sleep in tent and refuges for nights in the Park
- From / to Puerto Natales

**About the Area.**

The Andes are a relatively young mountain chain, created over the last 70 million years as the Nazca plate was slowly pushed under the continental South American plate. Over the last two million years the Cordillera has undergone several periods of intense glaciation during which much of its present topography was formed. The South Patagonian Andes are largely composed of granitic rocks. In Paine area the black caps on the peaks like Cuernos and Fortress are remnants of a huge sedimentary roof.

Fifty million years from now, ice erosion may have completely wiped out the magnificent granite spires and crustal plates. Approximately 14,000 years ago the last ice age began to end, and the glaciers that had intermittently covered most of the Andes retreated into the Cordillera. This natural global warming allowed the plants and animals to recolonise large areas previously under ice.

Southern Patagonian Ice cap that is primarily responsible for the climate along Paine region. This is the largest ice cap in the world outside north Pole and Antarctica´s area. The westerly sea air carries moisture that cools down as it moves across the ice cap. Waves and vortices create a meeting of winds from different directions, forming a convergence zone. Areas of low pressure and convergence zones result in thick clouds and precipitation. The ice cap may be responsible for katabatic winds on Paine mountains.

Here trekkers are lured by colourful sunsets, sheer mountains wrapped in gleaming ice, wild animals, tidewater glaciers and we invite you to join Patagonia with us.

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## **Your trip.**

Our trip start in Puerto Natales (Chile).

You can arrive to Puerto Natales from Punta Arenas or Calafate (Argentina). Regular public buses are available every day.

**Bus:** Punta Arenas – Puerto Natales – Punta Arenas:

Buses Fernandez [www.busesfernandez.com](http://www.busesfernandez.com)

Buses Pacheco [www.busespacheco.com](http://www.busespacheco.com)

**Bus:** Calafate – Puerto Natales – Calafate:

Bus Zahaj [http://www.turismozaahj.co.cl/el\\_calafate\\_eng.htm](http://www.turismozaahj.co.cl/el_calafate_eng.htm)

Bus Cootra

**Airline:** Also Sky airlines fly in summer time straight to Puerto Natales, check availability at [www.skyairline.com](http://www.skyairline.com)

In Puerto Natales we can assist you booking a Hotel or Hostal (cheaper option) for you. Let us know in advance when you book this trip.

A day before of our Day 1 trip, at 18:00, we will have a meeting with our guide to discuss our program.

Our guide also will talk about your personal trekking equipment and also can check it if this is necessary.

In Puerto Natales, you can leave all not necessary gear for the trekking. Leave a bag and we will storage safely.

## **Trek.**

This itinerary has five days trek into the Torres del Paine Park. During these days you need to use a back pack size with enough room, just for carry your clothes, sleeping bag, pad and trail food. Trail food, will be providing each day for our guide. Common equipment such as tents, stoves, pots, food will be transferred by porters from camp to camp.

All tents will be assembled by our porters and guide (except for days in refuges). In some camps, and depending of size group, we also set up a dining tent with tables and chairs and kitchen and all meals will be prepare for us.

About trekking, every day we will walk an average of 6 hours a day, and we expect several up and down hills along the trek.

[www.andesmountain.cl](http://www.andesmountain.cl)    [andes@andesmountain.cl](mailto:andes@andesmountain.cl)

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Torres del Paine Park does not have high altitude trails. Maximum altitude expected is about 900m (2,950ft). above sea level.



**About weather**, the main characteristic of this place is the fast change that can suffer the climate conditions. Any combination can be possible between the wind, sun, rain and snow in a single day. Patagonia and specially Torres del Paine does not have a determined climate, are rather unstable, mainly in the proximity to the South Ice Field, places that registers the lowest temperatures and register a more intense rainfall. This also can be in snow type. However the Pampa sector located at east side of the park (dry zone) register less rainfall and low humidity conditions. Temperatures also feel higher, reaching also 20°C. in some sunny days.

MONTH	Oct-Dic	Ene-Marzo	Abril-Junio	Julio-Sep
Season	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Temp. Max.	18°C	21°C	11°C	7°C
Temp. Min.	1°C	4°C	0°C	-3°C

Our equipment and clothing must be adapted for these circumstances, we must have special care with the selection of the clothes that we will use, which as main norm must suitably support to rain and the wind, be sufficiently comfortable during warm days and be lightweight when you will put it into your back pack. We must be prepared to have in one day a four season climate.

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**About walk distances**, we will walk average of 6 hours a day, and we expect several up and down hills along the trek. Our longer up hill is on day 2, when we go up at Torres lookout.

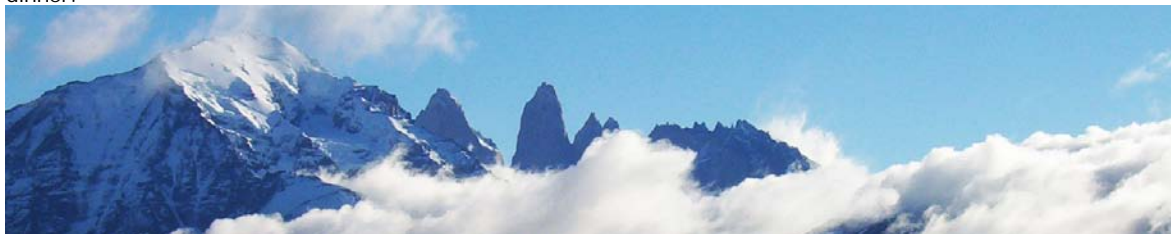
## PROGRAM

### Day 1: Puerto Natales – Torres del Paine

Breakfast in the morning. Leave at the hotel all not necessary gear for our trekking days. Leave in the morning (8:30am) in our private vehicle in direction to Torres del Paine National Park. This takes 2 hours driving north and takes Laguna Amarga entrance. Right before entering the Park, we will have excellent view and a great picture taking opportunities of Paine wild life such as guanacos, grey foxes, Chilean flamencos, Condor and black-necked swans.

Arrival at camp Las Torres. Here, we leave most of our gear and tents. Start our hike with a day pack through Ascencio valley by the footpath into Lenga trees towards Torres del Paine lookout, one of the most spectacular views of the Park (4 hours). From here we can view the three granite pinnacles towering above a green, cirque-bound lake in a deep, narrow valley. The scene is one of the intense past glaciations. Return to Torres camp (Tent). Hot shower available. Snack and dinner.

**Note:** During all our expedition it is including the breakfast, one trail food during the long walks and dinner.



### Day 2: Cuernos Camp.

Leave our camp at the morning. Trek towards Cuernos refuge, that offers a superb view of "Cuernos del Paine" one the most spectacular and icon of this Park. From the refuge, we can observe a wide and big rock wall in front of us. Take your binoculars to observe the Condor´s flight and nest well protected from the depredators by the cliff. Trek from Las Torres to Cuernos takes around 5-6 hours. This path crosses rocky zones, several creeks and forest along the Paine massif and Nordeskjold Lake. Lodging in Cuernos (Refuge). Hot shower available. Dinner.

### Day 3: French Valley - Pehoé Camp.

Breakfast in the refuge. 8:30am, we leave Cuernos, towards French Valley. After walking along of Lago Nordenskjold for an hour, we will arrive at the French Valley entrance. This is a impressive valley that is surrounded by scarped mountains like Paine Grande, Horns, Sword, Mask, Catedral and others magnificent peaks. We will contemplate this mountain circus from the lookout. back to continue through the path that goes to Pehoe camp, where we will find our camping place. (Tent). Hot shower available. Snack and dinner. *If refuge Cuernos are not available, we provide a tent with mattress and also we book refuge for next night for Pehoe Refuge.*



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### **Day 4: Pehóé Camp – Grey Camp.**

Today we will initiate one of the most beautiful passages of this excursion. 8:30 breakfast. This path between Pehoe and Grey takes about four hours trek, with a beautiful views of Lake Grey along the trail. Also, we will views of enormous Grey Glacier coming down of the southern ice sheet. Arrival at Camp Grey. (Tent). Hot shower available. Snack and dinner.

### **Day 5: Grey - Guardas lookout – Grey - Puerto Natales.**

Breakfast. Trek to Guardas lookout 1:30 hours. Here we can contemplate Grey Glacier very close to us from Guardas lookout. Back to Grey camp.. At our arrival we take a boat that sail Grey Lake and navigate in front of the ice wall of Grey Lake and then continue south through all this lake. Here our vehicle will waiting us and transfer to Puerto Natales.

### **W Circuit Map in Torres del Paine**



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## **Service includes:**

- Mountain/trekking Guide
- One nights of lodging in refuge Cuernos in Torres del Paine
- Three nights of camping in Torres del Paine (tent)
- Private ground transportation from Puerto Natales to Torres del Paine and Puerto Natales.
- Torres del Paine entrance fee
- Fee for Sailing Gray Lake (depending, of availabilities and weather conditions we can make changes in this program using Pehoe Catamaran boat instead Grey II boat)
- All meals during the trekking days (Breakfast, box lunch, dinner)
- Radio communication UHF and VHF
- First aid kit
- Mountain tents and Mattress
- Cooking gear and dinner tent with tables and chairs (for big groups in Las Torres camp our staff prepare a special dinner and breakfast for our guests)

## **Service does not include:**

- Flight to Santiago and internal flight to Punta Arenas, Chile
- Hotel nights in Puerto Natales (we can book for you)
- All personal trekking equipment
- Accident and rescue insurance
- Cash for extra expenses
- Sleeping bag (Available for rent)
- Dinner in Puerto Natales
- In / Out Puerto Natales transportation (private transportation available)
- Extra meals during the day treks not mentioned in our schedule



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## PATAGONIA PERSONAL TREKKING EQUIPMENT

### Upper body:

- Wind proof and water proof Jacket, such as Gore Tex or similar layer
- Fleece or pile coat
- 2 polypropylene "T" shirt long sleeve
- 2 polypropylene or cotton "T" shirt short sleeve
- Cap of wool or fleece
- Light Gloves

### Lower body:

- 3 or 4 pairs of socks
- Lightweight polypropylene or capilene (Patagonia brand) long underwear bottoms
- Breathable and windproof pants
- One trekking lightweight pant (quick dry)
- Light trekking boots and sneakers

### Personal equipment:

- Clothes for sleep
- Sleeping bag (Suggested from 0°C to -15°C) (Available for rent)
- Articles of personal cleanliness
- Plastic bottle to fill up with water (1.000cc)
- Sun glasses
- Sun screen lotion
- Sun screen lip protector
- Insects repellent
- Backpack at least 55 liters of capacity
- Head lamp
- Camera
- Towel
- Gaitors
- Trekking poles (Available for rent)
- Duffel bag (for storage your extra things and leave it in our hotel in Puerto Natales)

### Links:

Application trip: <http://www.andesmountain.cl/aplicacion.html>

Web site program: <http://www.andesmountain.cl/1B-W-7-dias-Torres-Paine-Chile/W-circuit-7-days-Torres-del-Paine.html>

Thanks,

**Pedro Marzolo**

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