



## Torres del Paine – “W” Trek

Explore South America’s finest national park. This 7 Day package (5 day W Trek), including a guide will take you on trails to the magnificent Grey’s Glacier, through the imposing French Valley to view the mighty granite pillars of Las Torres. Hike through emerald forests, to magnificent glaciers, along alpine rivers and lakes, with picturesque mountain vistas while in this area of unparalleled beauty. Accommodation is in comfortable hiking refuges with all meals.

### Day 1: Arrival in Puerto Natales

Puerto Natales sits on the shores of Seno Última Esperanza in Chilean Patagonia, with striking views across the mountains. Once a relatively small fishing port, Puerto Natales now relies more on tourism, being the gateway to Torres del Paine National Park and the southern terminus of the ferry trip through the Chilean fjords.

Arrival Day. Arrive anytime. Arrival transfer is not included but can be arranged. Please ask for more details

Overnight in a Standard Room at Martin Gusinde Hotel (or similar).



### Included

- Transfer to Puerto Natales bus Station on Day 1 of your trek
- Entrance ticket to Torres del Paine National Park.
- Four nights’ accommodation at Refugio (Shared rooms with bunk beds, sheets, towels, shampoo and soap).
- Transport in regular bus from Puerto Natales bus station to Torres del Paine (roundtrip).
- Guide while on the trek
- Connecting transfer Portería Laguna Amarga – Sector Las Torres (The Welcome Centre).
- Lake Pehoé Ferry (Crossing from Paine Grande Sector to Pudeto to connect with the regular bus that travels to Natales).
- Full-board while on Trek Only: Complete stay (dinner, breakfast, packed lunch box, in this order – drinks are not included).
- Dinner (day IN to Torres del Paine), breakfast and packed lunch box (day OUT)

**NOTE:** - The Christmas or New Year extra does correspond to the dinner served on the 24th or 31st December

Transfer from Puerto Natales bus station to your hotel

### Not included

- Services not indicated in the program.
- Medical insurance of any kind.
- Arrival & Departure transfer on Day 1 & Day 7 of this package (can be added. Additional costs apply)

## Day 2: Puerto Natales – Torres del Paine (Regular Bus).

Departure Transfer: - You will be transferred to the bus station in time to meet your bus to Porterí Laguna Amarga

Registration time at Rodoviario (Bus Station): 2pm.

Departure: 2.30pm. / Arrival to Portería Laguna Amarga: 4.30pm.

Transfer in a regular bus from Puerto Natales to Torres del Paine. The journey lasts approximately 2 hours (112 Km.), passing through Cerro Castillo (a small border town situated along the route to the park and 54 Km. from Puerto Natales).

Upon arrival to Laguna Amarga, all travelers must get off of the bus and visit the CONAF Administration Office where they will follow all protocol necessary to enter the park; the park entrance fee is included in the cost of the program. Having finished the paperwork, travelers will board the transfer vehicles that belong to Transportes Las Torres and which will take them to the sector surrounding the Cerro Paine Ranch and then on to The Welcome Centre of their first accommodation site.



Breakfast is included today

Overnight at Refugio Torre Central

## Day 3: Trekking Base Torres Lookout (7 – 8 hours, 13 Km)

Recommended time to begin the trek: 9am

The first stage includes an ascent for about 1,5 hours, with beautiful views of the surrounding lakes and Mount Almirante Nieto's hanging glacier (2.670 m a.s.l.), until arriving to Refugio El Chileno. Here, the traveler will go through check-in, recharge energies and leave his/her main luggage before initiating the climb with a small rucksack. From here, and for about an hour, the traveler will cross a millennium-old forest of lenga trees before arriving to the base of the "Morrena". At this point, he/she will ascend for about 45 minutes in order to arrive to one of the site's most magnificent areas, "Base Torres Lookout", from where the imposing Torre Sur (2.850 m a.s.l.), Torre Central (2.800 m a.s.l.), Torre Norte (2.600 m a.s.l.), Nido de Condor and Glacier Torre can all be appreciated.

Level of difficulty: High.

NIGHT 2: Refugio El Chileno / If there are no beds available at this shelter, the alternative is to return to Torre Central (2 hours additional walking time).

Breakfast, Packed Lunch & Dinner is included

Overnight at Refugio El Chileno



#### Day 4: Trekking Refugio El Chileno – Refugio Los Cuernos (5 – 6 hours, 11km)

Recommended time to begin the trek: 9am

A moderate trek around the Macizo Paine, circling the base of Mount Almirante Nieto. From Refugio El Chileno, and after half an hour's walk, the traveler arrives to the "Atajo", a path on the right that continues towards Refugio Los Cuernos. Along the journey the traveler can take in the incredible sites of Lake Nordenskjöld, the hanging glaciers and local flora, including the "ciruelillo" or "notro" trees, which delight in displaying their characteristic red flowers from December onwards. After a four or five-hour walk, the traveler will arrive to the area entitled, Los Cuernos, which is considered by many as one of the most welcoming spots along the entire circuit.

Level of difficulty: Medium.

Depending on the availability, we recommend that you stay in the Los Cuernos Cabins; an exclusive style of accommodation with private rooms for one, two or three people and spectacular views. (additional costs available on request).

Breakfast, Packed Lunch & Dinner is included

Overnight at Refugio Los Cuernos



#### Day 5: Trekking to Francés Valley / Paine Grande (11 – 12 hours, 25.3km)



Recommended time to begin the trek: 8am

The first two hours are fairly light with views of Lake Nordenskjöld until arriving to "Camp Italiano". At this point, we recommend that you contact CONAF staff and make arrangements for leaving backpacks at the camp before beginning the ascent with just a small rucksack containing water, food and warm clothing. The climb begins from the valley of River Francés and continues all the way up to the Francés Glacier Lookout (1.5 hrs).

From there, the climb continues along the path until

arriving to the area called "Británico" and the "Británico Lookout", which offers one of the national park's most impressive landscape views.. The peaks that can be appreciated from this lookout are Paine Grande, Catedral, Hoja, Máscara, Espada, Aleta de Tiburón and Cuerno Norte. The return trek follows the same path down to "Camp Italiano" and then onwards to the sector known as Pehoé, where the shelter is located.

Level of difficulty: High.

Breakfast, Packed Lunch & Dinner is included

Overnight at Paine Grande Lodge

## Day 6: Trekking to Grey Glacier (8 – 9 hours, 22 Km)

Recommended time to begin the trek: 9am

Roundtrip to the Grey Glacier Lookout. After about one and a half hours the traveler will reach the first lookout, where it's possible to observe the glacier at a distance. From there, the traveler will follow a path that circles the west bank of Lake Grey. After about one and a half / two hours the traveler will reach the main lookout with spectacular views of Grey Glacier, Cordón Olguín and the ice floes. The return journey follows the same path, arriving to the sector known as Pehoé. At the pier the traveler will board a ferry and take a trip across Lake Pehoé, disembarking at the sector known as Pudeto from which point a transfer will be waiting to take him/her back to Puerto Natales.

Level of difficulty: Medium.

Ferry Itinerary PM / AM:

Registration time at the pier: 6.00pm/ Departure: 6.30pm/ Approximate arrival time to Rodoviario Natales: 10pm.

Breakfast & Packed Lunch is included

It is possible that due to physical and climate conditions the traveller prefers to return on the first ferry. In this instance, the walk will only reach the first lookout (three hours approximate roundtrip). If taking advantage of this option, registration time at the pier is: 11am/ Departure: 11.30am/ Approximate arrival time to Rodoviario Natales: 4.30pm.

It's important that on this day the traveller effectively calculates walking times in order to be on time for the ferry departures.

When walking to the glacier, backpacks can be safely left at Paine Grande Lodge (a free service for travellers who are staying at this place).

Upon arrival in to Puerto Natales bus Station, you will be met & transferred to your hotel

Overnight in a Standard Room at Martin Gusinde (or similar)



## Day 7: Departure Day - Services End

Departure Day. Depart Any time. Transfers are not included but can be arranged. Please ask for more details

Breakfast is included today.



**Included:** Accommodation, daily breakfast, other meals where stated, tours with professional English speaking guide on a shared service basis unless otherwise stated, airport transfers where stated, most entrance fees and local taxes (some exclusions apply).

**Excluded:** Any meals not mentioned in the above itinerary. Travel Insurance and tips. Any flights or services not mentioned in this itinerary.

**Please Note:** This itinerary and/or hotels quoted within this itinerary may change due to local operating conditions or availability at the time of booking. Please see our terms and conditions for more details. Please note that all flights are non-refundable and non-changeable unless advised otherwise. Viva Expeditions accepts no responsibility for flight delays and subsequent delays on tours.

Please be aware that many of our products are operated in US Dollars and therefore subject to currency fluctuations. Viva Expeditions will do its utmost to avoid passing on any additional charges however if there is a significant change in exchange rates then we will be required to add a currency surcharge without warning. If you would like to remove this currency risk you do have the option of paying in full at the time of booking.

Final payment on bookings are generally due 95 days prior to departure.

## Hotel Information

### **Martin Gusinde Hotel**

#### *Standard Category Accommodation*

Martin Gusinde Hotel is a fantastic hotel in Puerto Natales city, which is the gateway to the magnificent Bernardo O'Higgins and Torres del Paine National Parks. Located just a few streets from the Main Square of the city, the hotel is also very close to the Casino. The rooms at the Martin Gusinde Hotel are warm and finely decorated, all with Cable TV, central heating, security box and telephone.



### **Refugio Torre Central**

Located at the beginning of the W Circuit in Las Torres sector. From this place you start the W Circuit going to the Famous Base of the Towers.

The most popular access to the National Park is through "Portería Laguna Amarga", where you may connect with shuttles that take the visitors to Las Torres sector.

Capacity: 60 people, 10 shared-mixed dorms for 6 people each, with 3 bunk beds

Accommodation: MADE UP BED (includes sheets and cover bed).

Facilities: Lounge / Restaurant / Bar / Shop. Central Heating. Shared Bathrooms

### **Refugio El Chileno**

Located 2 hours from Las Torres sector, it is in the trail that leads to the famous BASE of the Towers. From this sector you may return to Las Torres sector or continue to Los Cuernos.

Accommodation: BED + Sleeping bag or SIMPLE BED (for use of own sleeping bag).

Capacity: 32 people, 4 shared and mixed dorms of 8 people each (3 bunk beds in each room)

Facilities: Restaurant / shop. Heating: wood, slow burning stove, Shared bathrooms (exclusive use for Refugio's guests).

Camping El Chileno (should Refugio be fully booked):

50 camping sites.

Shared bathrooms (exclusive use for campers, 24 hour hot water service).

Equipment rental available: Tent, sleeping bag and insulation mat.

Meals available at the Refugio.

**IMPORTANT:** We recommend staying in El Chileno and climb to the base of the towers before dawn, to see the sunrise colours reflected on the granitic towers and not miss out on this spectacle

### **Refugio Los Cuernos**

Located at 4,5 hours trek from Las Torres sector, it is in the real heart of the "W" Circuit and generally is the second or third night during the itinerary (see our suggested program). It is located between Las Torres Sector and the French Valley.

From this sector you can visit the French Valley that has one of the best views in the park: the amphitheatre formed by several granitic mountains and then continue to Pehoé Lake and Grey Glacier.

- Refugio Los Cuernos:

Accommodation: BED + Sleeping Bag or SIMPLE BED (for use of your own sleeping bag).

Capacity: 36 people; 4 shared-mixed dorms for 8 people each (3 bunk beds in each room).

Facilities: Restaurant / Shop. Heating: wood. Shared Bathrooms, exclusive for Refugio's guests.

- Camping Los Cuernos (If refugio is fully booked):

50 camping sites.

Shared bathrooms (exclusive use for campers, 24 hour hot water service).

Equipment rental available: Tent, sleeping bag and insulation mat.

Meals available at the Refugio.

- Cabins Los Cuernos (Recommend upgrade option - additional costs apply):

Located in the Base of Los Cuernos del Paine, in the same sector as the Refugio and Camping Los Cuernos; at 4,5 hours trek from Las Torres sector or El Chileno. The place has a spectacular view of Los Cuernos and Nordenskjöld Lake. It is the perfect place to recover energies and continue the challenge!

8 double cabins with Made Up Bed (twin beds).

Shared bathrooms (exclusive use for cabin's guests).

Meals are served in Los Cuernos Refugio

### **Paine Grande Lodge**

The shelter is located on the edge of lake Pehoé with a privileged view over Cuernos del Paine. The main access to the shelter is an astonishing navigation through lake Pehoé from Pudeto. Shelter Paine Grande is the starting point to ??Grey Glacier area and the beautiful Valle del Francés.

The building can accommodate 100 hikers in 24 rooms with bunks for 2, 4 or 6 people. Some rooms feature a beautiful view of the lake, Cuernos del Paine and some others to the mountains.

Bathrooms are shared, with wash basins, toilets and independent showers with hot water for men and women.

Cafeteria - The shelter features a cafeteria offering breakfast, lunch and dinner, drinks, beers and wines.

Dinner is served between 7 and 9 pm and must be booked and paid before 5 pm. Box lunch option must be requested a day in advance.

Bar - Located on the second floor Paine Grande Bar is the ideal place share your adventure at Torres del Paine while overlooking the lake and Cuernos del Paine. Enjoy a beer, a traditional pisco sour or a glass of wine.

Open from 5 to 11 pm.

Lounges - Equipped with slow combustion heating and sofas to relax after an exhausting hike.

Minimarket - Here you can buy souvenirs, clothes, accessories, food, snacks and drinks

## **Pre-booking Advice**

Please click on the below link which includes some detailed information on common destinations. Please read this information prior to approving your quote with your sales consultant as the items mentioned in this document can be difficult (and/or expensive) to change after your booking is confirmed.

[Itinerary Planning Advice](#)

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