

BEYOND THE W

Southern Patagonia, Chile

Duration 13 days / 12 nights

Difficulty Advanced ●●●○

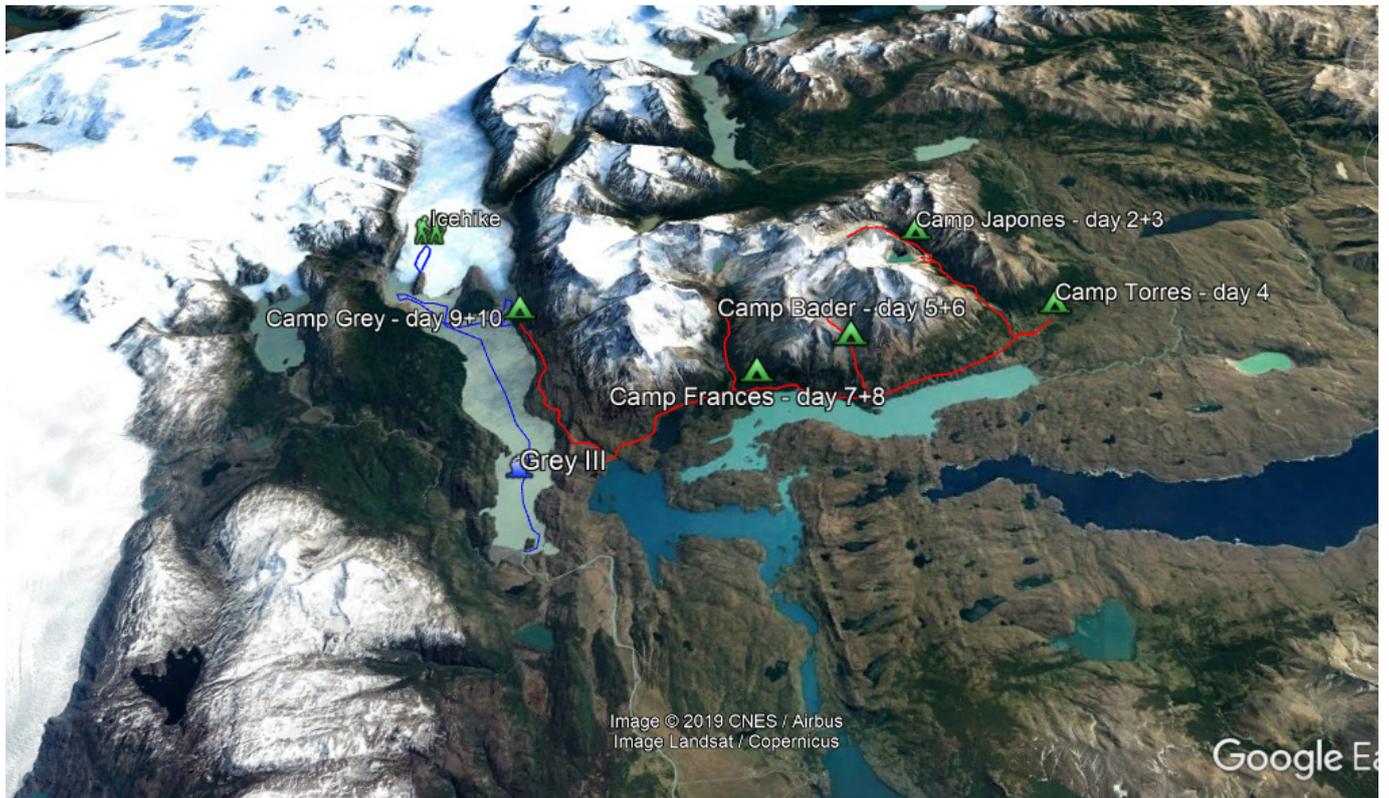
Departure November to April

OVERVIEW

Thirteen days to complete the Torres del Paine “Triple V” that includes the park’s most famous sites as well as remote valleys not normally visited by other travelers. This tour allows for daily trekking in just the right amount of doses so that you can take time to savor and truly experience the park’s natural geologic wonders and extraordinary flora and fauna. The trek includes the well-known W trail, along with off-the-beaten treks into the wilderness of Torres del Paine that few often see.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Experience the world-famous Torres del Paine National Park in a novel and comprehensive way.
- ★ Explore two hidden valleys not normally transited by other travelers.
- ★ Walk on Glacier Grey, which originates from the vast Southern Patagonian Ice Field.
- ★ Enjoy a day with a local Patagonian family on an “estancia” (sheep ranch).



DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1. Puerto Natales

Arrive, meet for dinner and a briefing session about the upcoming days and what to expect.
Night in Puerto Natales.

Accommodation: Hostal/ Hotel in Puerto Natales

Meals: D

Day 2. Torres del Paine – The Trek Begins

Following a van transfer to the park from Puerto Natales, we begin a 6-hour trek into the plunging Ascencio Valley through scented beech forest and undulating alpine terrain, until we reach a backcountry climber’s campsite, “Japones.” Here, we set up camp for the night.

Accommodation: Wilderness Camp at Campground “Japones”

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 6h trek - 8.7 Miles /14 km; start 492 ft/ 125 m – end 2296Ft/ 700 m

Transport: 3 hours in private van

Day 3. The Silent Valley

Few visitors to Torres del Paine get the chance to visit this hidden wonderland of granite and ice, tucked deep inside a plunging valley of the Paine Massif on the back side of the Towers. This “cathedral” of imposing, sheer vertical rock rises high above a boulderstrewn glacier on the valley floor. We allow for a full day to explore this spectacular region in the heart of the Massif.

Accommodation: Wilderness Camp at Campground “Japones”

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 8h trek - 6.2Miles /10 km; start 2296Ft/ 700 m – end 2296Ft/ 700 m

Day 4. Torres del Paine Lookout

Today we’ll visit the base of the Towers that gave the national park its name. After packing up, we head out the Ascencio Valley, drop our packs at a ranger outpost, and head up a boulder-laden moraine until arriving at the Las Torres Valley, where we are treated to a sweeping view of the Paine Towers, considered by many as the highlight of the park. Then we begin our slow descent until reaching the Torres Campground, a 7-hour total trek for this day.

Accommodation: Camp at Campground “Torres”

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 7h trek - 9.3 Miles/ 15 km; start 2296Ft/ 700 m – end 410Ft/ 125 m

Day 5. Nordenskjold Lake

Today we trek along a pleasant, flora-filled trail that skirts the impossibly turquoise waters of Lake Nordenskjold. After several hours, we detour off-trail and head up to the Bader Valley, a relatively unknown but no less spectacular valley rimmed with granite spires. We pitch camp in a small forest that affords spectacular, sweeping views of the Patagonian prairie and lakes.

Accommodation: Wilderness Camp at Campground “Bader”

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 5h trek - 6.2 Miles/ 10 km; start 410Ft/ 125 m – end 2296Ft/ 700 m

Day 6. Bader Valley

We have the entire day to walk deep into the Bader Valley, where the trail ends at a shimmering

lake that brings life to the otherwise rocky alpine environment. We can see “Los Cuernos” from a perspective not many people are lucky to appreciate, other than the rock climbers who normally visit this area.

Accommodation: Wilderness Camp at Campground “Bader”

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 6h trek - 4.3 Miles/ 7 km; start 2296Ft/ 700 m – end 2296Ft/ 700 m

Day 7. Day of Rest

Today we take it slow, breaking down camp and then heading down the high valley back to the W Trail, walking along Lake Nordenskjold to enjoy the views opening up of the Southern Ice Field and the Paine Grande mountain with its hanging glacier. We spend the night at the Los Cuernos campground.

Accommodation: Camp at Campground “Francés”

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 5h trek - 6.2 Miles/ 10 km; start 2296Ft/ 700 m – end 656Ft/ 200 m

Day 8. The French Valley Lookout

After packing a daypack, we’ll head up the French Valley to penetrate deep into one of the park’s most spectacular valleys. We are in no hurry as we walk along the French Glacier and Paine Grande, the highest mountain in the park, passing through a forest of miniature Antarctic beech before arriving at a stunning amphitheater of tall granite peaks.

Accommodation: Camp at Campground “Francés”

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 8h trek - 8.7 Miles/ 14 km; start 656Ft/ 200 m – end 656Ft/ 200 m

Day 9. Paine Lakes

The W Trail continues along the base of the Paine Massif, on a relatively light hike that puts us at Lake Pehoe and the Paine Grande Lodge for lunch. After resting, we gear up for a more difficult hike into the Grey Valley, bordering Lake Grey and approaching the area’s massive glacier, which will come into view as we approach our destination for the evening, the Glacier Grey campground.

Accommodation: Camp at Campground “Grey”

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 7h trek - 13.6 miles/ 22km; start 656Ft/ 200 m – end 196Ft/ 60 m

Day 10. Glacier Grey

Today's adventure involves ice and all of its shapes, colors and forms. After crossing the lake in a zodiac inflatable boat, passing floating icebergs, we reach the Nunatak island, hike to the glacier and strap on crampons, then begin our spectacular walk across the glacier peering into crevasses colored a range of blues.

Accommodation: Camp at Campground "Grey"

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 5h ice hike expedition

Day 11. Goodbye Torres del Paine

In the morning we will hike to a viewpoint to take in the sweeping view of Glacier Grey's vertical ice wall and the gargantuan Southern Ice Field behind it. This is a relatively long day with a 4-hour hike back to the catamaran at Lake Pehoe, which will take us to the other side of the lake and where our van will be waiting for the drive back to our hotel in Puerto Natales.

Accommodation: Hostel/ Hotel in Puerto Natales

Meals: B, BL

Activity: 3h trek - 3.7 Miles/ 6 km; start 196Ft/ 60 m – end 196Ft/ 60 m

Day 12. A Day with a Patagonian Pioneer/ Gaucho

We will spend today experiencing Patagonian "pioneer" life at the Estancia Mercedes, a sheep ranch reached by boat and van. A short day- hike will have us searching for condors and other wildlife today, with a trailside lunch prepared with ingredients from the estancia's organic garden. Our last night in Puerto Natales includes a farewell dinner.

Accommodation: Hostel/ Hotel in Puerto Natales

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 5h trek

Transport: 1-hour boat/ 2 hours transport in private van

Day 13. Depart

Transfer to Puerto Natales or Punta Arenas Airport. End of services.

Meals: B

Transport: 3 hours in public bus

INCLUDED

- Local knowledgeable English-speaking guide (1:6 clients)
- Park Entrance
- Private transfer Puerto Natales – Torres del Paine – Puerto Natales
- Private transport to and from Estancia Mercedes
- A day with a pioneer family on their ranch
- Porters at Torres del Paine Park to carry food and camp equipment from day 2 to 7
- All meals as stated 12 B(reakfasts), 11BL (Packed Lunch) and 11D(inners)
- 3 nights in Hostel/ Hotel in Puerto Natales
- 9 nights in Camp / 4 of these in Wilderness Camp
- Ice hike on Glacier Grey
- Katamaran boattrip on Lake Grey
- Group bio security equipment (according to international standards)
- Emergency kit: Wilderness First aid kit, VHF/ UHF radio and Satelite phone
- Tents and Camp equipment (pots, stoves, utensils etc)

NOT INCLUDED

- Beverage
- Tips to local guides & other personel
- International and domestic airfare to Santiago de Chile and Punta Arenas/ Puerto Natales
- Personal equipment (sleeping bag and liner, mattress, technical clothes, trekking boots etc.)
- Porters to carry personal equipment (can be contracted)
- Personal bio security kit (mask, gloves etc)
- Personal medical and evacuation insurance (obligatory)

