

DEEP PAINE CIRCUIT

Southern Patagonia, Chile

Duration 13 days / 12 nights

Difficulty Advanced ●●●○

Departure November to April

OVERVIEW

A full immersion into Torres del Paine, the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and one of the most famous national parks in the world. The Deep Paine is the most extensive and varied circuit in the park, covering approximately 150 km (95 miles) of diverse landscapes, from golden steppe to forested valleys, sprawling glaciers to spectacular alpine scenery. The multiday traverse is a mix of colors, scents and sounds that showcase some of Mother Nature's most formidable natural landscapes. Starting from Las Torres, we continue to Los Perros, El Paso, Glacier Grey, and finally the French Valley, where our route ends, leave you with unforgettable memories that you will treasure forever.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Complete the full circuit of the Paine Massif – one of great treks of the world.
- ★ Marvel upon the incredible Southern Patagonian Ice Field, where other hikers seldom venture.
- ★ Hike along the impressive Grey Glacier, and watch icebergs calving into Lago Grey.



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, “Japonés.” Here, we set up camp for the night.

Accommodation: Wilderness Camp at Campground “Japonés”

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 6h trek - 8.7 Miles /14 km - start 492 ft/ 125 m - end 2296 ft/ 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 boulder-strewn 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 DEFY at Campground “Japonés”

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 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. Patagonian Pampa

We begin to trek along the base of the Paine Massif northward, through golden “pampa” or prairie, the beginning of “The Circuit.” Today’s hike is relatively easy, along mostly flat terrain.

Accommodation: Camp at Campground “Serón”

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 4h trek - 8 miles/ 13 km - start 330ft/ 100 m - end 330ft/ 100 m

Day 6. Refugio Dickson

Following a river and lake system, we continue our trek deeper and deeper into the Patagonian backcountry, eventually reaching Lake Dickson at the foot of the impressive Dickson Glacier – where the integrated river and lake system of the park begins – familiarizing ourselves with Patagonian shrubs and the mountains that separate Chile from Argentina.

Accommodation: Camp at Campground "Dickson"

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 6h trek – 12 miles/ 19 km – start 330ft/ 100 m – end 650ft/ 200 m

Day 7. Los Perros Valley

A relatively short hiking day, today's journey is no less fascinating, exploring dense, primeval beech forest and appreciating great views of the Dickson Glacier pouring into Lake Dickson from the massive ice field above. We'll follow the roaring Los Perros River that leads us to the Los Perros Hanging Glacier and Lake, a picture-perfect junction of rivers, glaciers, forests, and mountains. A truly magical place.

Accommodation: Camp at Campground "Los Perros"

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 4h trek – 8 miles/ 13 km – start 650ft/ 200 m – end 2,100ft/ 650 m

Day 8. John Gardner Mountain Pass

Leaving early, we begin the most adventurous day of our journey with a climb up the notorious John Gardner mountain pass. Once we reach the top, an utterly spectacular and mesmerizing view awaits of the massive Southern Patagonian Ice Field and the 17-mile-long Grey Glacier resting 2,600 feet below. A more difficult downward descent follows, through deep gorges traversed by descending several hanging ladders and suspension bridges, until reaching the Glacier Grey campground.

Accommodation: Camp at Campground "Grey"

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 11h trek – 15 miles/ 24 km – start 2,100ft/ 650 m – end 165ft/50 m

Day 9. Day of Rest

Following the previous day's rough trek, today we can either relax around the campground, join a kayak trip paddling between huge chunks of rugged icebergs, or join an ice hike adventure on the Grey Glacier wearing crampons to explore the crevasses and interiors of the glacier.

Accommodation: Camp at Campground "Grey"

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: – Kayak: 2,5 hours. No experience needed.

– Ice hike: 5 hours, approx. 2 hours on ice. No experience needed

Day 10. Grey & Pehoe Lakes

Back on the W Trail, we leave Glacier Grey and head south for four hours, following the iceberg-strewn Lake Grey and enjoying views of the Paine Grande peak. After lunch on the shore Lake Pehoe, we'll turn toward the French Valley, our campsite for the night.

Accommodation: Camp at Campground "Francés"

Meals: B, BL, D

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

Day 11. The French Valley Lookout

With just a daypack, we'll explore the craggy, forested French Valley, with views of the Paine Grande hanging glacier, passing through enchanted miniature beech forest to a stunning amphitheater of towering 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 12. Puerto Natales

We will hike along the milky turquoise waters of Lake Nordenskjöld that borders the Almirante Nieto Mountain, contemplating our adventure as it comes to an end. Return to Puerto Natales for the night, and a farewell dinner.

Accommodation: Hostal/ Hotel in Puerto Natales

Meals: B, BL, D

Activity: 5h trek/6.2 miles/ 10 km - start 2296ft/ 700 m - end 656ft/ 200 m

Day 13. Goodbye Patagonia

You can depart from Puerto Natales any time during the day. If you are flying from Punta Arenas, a public bus can be arranged.

Meals: B

INCLUDED

- Local knowledgeable English-speaking guide (1:6 clients)
- Park Entrance
- Private transfer Puerto Natales – Torres del Paine – Puerto Natales
- Porters to carry food and camp equipment from day 2 to 4
- Meals as stated 12 B(reakfast), 11 BL (packed lunch), 12 D(inner)
- 2 nights in Hostel/ Hotel in Puerto Natales
- 10 nights in Camp / 2 of these in Wilderness Camp
- Ice hike on Glacier Grey or kayak on Grey Lake
- Group bio security equipment (according to international standards)
- Emergency kit: Wilderness First aid kit, VHF/ UHF radio and Satellite phone
- Tents and Camp equipment (pots, stoves, utensils etc.)

NOT INCLUDED

- Beverage
- Tips to local guides & other personnel
- International and national 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)