



Lotus Expeditions

Specialists in Custom Adventure Travel

Trekking in Patagonia, Chile The Torres Del Paine Full Circuit 15 Days

Spectacular Patagonia! Granite spires, massive glaciers, turquoise lakes and glistening blue icebergs. Words are insufficient to describe this stunning wilderness, its beauty must be glimpsed with ones eyes and its magic felt by ones soul. For all lovers of mountains and wilderness, a pilgrimage to Torres Del Paine in the Southern Patagonian Andes is an absolute must!

Torres Del Paine is one of the classic treks of the world and due to its remoteness and challenging nature still sees fewer visitors than many of the world's popular treks.

The Full Paine Circuit is a challenging 10-day adventure that circumnavigates the entire massif. The full circuit crosses John Garner Pass and visits the most beautiful regions in the park including Torres Del Paine lookout, Laguna Azul, the French Valley and Lago Grey with optional glacier hiking.

Trip Summary:

- Steep, granite spires, turquoise lakes, stunning wilderness
- Visit to Seno Otway Penguin Reserve
- 10 days of challenging wilderness hiking with stream crossings
- 60 mile/104 kilometer circuit
- Optional glacier trekking with crampons and ropes
- 3 nights hotels, 6 nights basic camping, 3 nights mountain huts

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Days One-Two, Travel to Punta Arenas, Chile

Depart your home country and fly to Punta Arenas, Chile (*Note: most international flights from the U.S. to Santiago travel overnight. You will connect with your domestic flight to Punta Arenas on Day 2. Please allow sufficient time to clear immigration*). You will be met at the airport in Punta Arenas by a Lotus representative and transported to your hotel. There will be a trip orientation in the afternoon. The evening is free. *O/N, Hotel in Punta Arenas*

Day Three, Punta Arenas to Puerto Natales

After breakfast, we depart by private vehicle for a four hour drive to Puerto Natales. En route we will visit the Seno Otway Penguin Reserve. Puerto Natales is a small, fishing village situated on the shores of Last Hope Sound. The afternoon is free to explore town. *B; O/N, Hotel in Puerto Natales*

Day Four, Puerto Natales to Torres Del Paine National Park, Begin Trek

Following an early breakfast we embark on a two hour journey by private vehicle across the windswept Patagonia plains to the entrance of Torres Del Paine National Park. Guanaco, a wild species of camelid, are common along this stretch. We'll enjoy our first stunning views of the granite towers as we begin our first day of hiking to Torres Del Paine lookout above a small, glacial lake. We will return by the same path and meet our vehicles for the short transfer to Laguna Azul and our deluxe campsite for the evening. *Hiking Time 7-9 hours roundtrip, B,L,D; O/N, camping*

Day Five, Trek to Lago Paine

Today we begin our circumnavigation of the Paine Massif. After breakfast we will meet our baqueano or Chilean horseman who will be transporting our gear for the next two days. Our trail heads out across ancient glacial moraines as we approach Lago Paine. We drop through Lenga forests where we may see Austral parakeets, several species of geese, and if we are lucky, a guanaco or Chilean fox. We will make a basic camp at Coiron next to Lago Paine. *Hiking Time 5-6 hours; B,L,D; O/N, camping*

Day Six, Lago Dickson

Our trail leads us west to Lago Dickson, a glacial lake on the edge of the southern Patagonia ice cap. Stunning views and brightly colored flowers accompany us on our leisurely hike. At the lake we will cross the aqua waters by Zodiac to reach our destination for the day- the Refugio Dickson, a rustic

Chilean mountain hut, where hot showers and a hot meal await. *Hiking Time 5-6 hours; B,L,D; O/N, mountain hut*

Day Seven, Los Perros Camp

Today we bid farewell to our baqueano. From this point, the trail becomes much too rugged for horses thus porters will assist in the transport of our gear. Our trail leads us through pristine, old growth beech forests where the red-headed magellanic woodpecker is almost always spotted. The stunning Dickson Glacier comes into view as it pours into Lago Dickson. We will establish a basic camp at Los Perros near the base of John Garner Pass. *Hiking Time 6-7 hours; B,L,D; O/N, camping*

Day Eight, Cross John Garner Pass

After an early breakfast we embark on our most difficult day. Today we climb steadily for three hours to John Garner Pass at 4,095 feet/1,241 meters, our highest point on trek. From the pass we gain spectacular views of the Patagonia icecap and the massive Grey Glacier below. Our trail descends rough scree slopes and becomes quite steep and slippery in spots. We will establish a basic camp at Campamento Paso where a hot meal awaits. *Hiking Time 5-6 hours; B,L,D; O/N, camping*

Day Nine, Trek to Lago Grey

We continue our steep descent to Grey Lake. Our trail winds in and out of lenga forests where we'll gain occasional spectacular views of Grey Glacier and the Patagonia icecap. We will skirt the glacier moving up and down a slippery and sometimes muddy trail until we reach our camp next to the stunning waters of Lago Grey. We will establish our camp here and will have our meals in the hut nearby. *Hiking Time 5-6 hours; B,L,D; O/N, camping*

Day Ten, Rest Day at Lago Grey, Optional Glacier Hiking

Today is a well-deserved rest day! You may sleep in, relax, read or take a leisurely walk to a lookout point where you can observe icebergs calving off the glacier. Alternatively, you may elect to try "glacier hiking" and ice climbing on Grey Glacier with ropes and crampons and instruction by Chilean mountain guides. The tour begins in the morning where you will board a zodiac and travel briefly across Lago Grey, navigating around icebergs, to the start of your hike. *Glacier hiking 3-4 hours; B,L,D; O/N, camping*

Day Eleven, Lago Pehoe and Refugio Paine Grande

After a leisurely breakfast we begin our short trek to Lago Pehoe. Our trail parallels the mesmerizing Lago Grey with its intense blue grey waters, and

aqua icebergs floating serenely on the water's surface after their tumultuous fall from the massive Grey Glacier. We cross a high plateau with stunning views and eventually reach our luxurious accommodation at the new, Paine Grande Hut where hot showers and a delicious meal await. *Hiking Time 3-4 hours; B,L,D; O/N, mountain lodge*

Day Twelve, The French Valley

There are two options today. You may hike directly from Paine Hut to Los Cuernos Hut (*hiking time 4-5 hours*) or ascend the stunning Valle Frances (*an additional 4-5 hours r/t hiking*). The French Valley is one of the most spectacular glacial cirques in the entire park. The views of sweeping glaciers and the massive granite horns of Los Cuernos peaks are unparalleled. *Hiking Time 4-5 or 8-10 hours; B,L,D; O/N, mountain hut*

Day Thirteen, Lake Nordenskjold, End Trek, Return to Puerto Natales

Today is our final day of trekking along the shores of Lake Nordenskjold. Our trail parallels this stunning aqua blue lake below the massive hanging glaciers of Mt. Admiral Nieto and the Los Cuernos peaks. Our adventure ends at the Hosteria Las Torres where our vehicle is waiting for the return journey to Puerto Natales. Hot showers and a final celebration meal await! *Hiking Time 5-6 hours; B; O/N, Hotel in Puerto Natales*

Day Fourteen, Transfer to Punta Arenas, Fly to Santiago and Depart

After an early breakfast, we will drive three hours to the domestic airport in Punta Arenas for your flight to Santiago and international connections (*Note: domestic departures should depart Punta Arenas no earlier than 2:00pm*). *B*

Day Fifteen, Arrive Home
