



# Lotus Expeditions

*Specialists in Custom Adventure Travel*

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## Trekking in Patagonia, Chile The Torres Del Paine “W” Trek 10 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.

Lotus Expeditions offers two treks in Torres Del Paine National Park. The full Paine Circuit is a challenging 15-day adventure that circumnavigates the entire massif. The more popular, equally stunning and moderately challenging, “W” Trek is an abbreviated version of the full circuit. The “W” trek visits the most beautiful regions in the park including Torres Del Paine lookout, the French Valley and Lago Grey with optional glacier hiking and a final descent of Grey Lake by boat.

### Trip Summary:

- Steep, granite spires, turquoise lakes, stunning wilderness
- Visit to Seno Otway Penguin Reserve
- Glacier trekking and ice climbing with crampons and ropes
- Descent of Lago Grey, amidst blue icebergs, by boat
- 3 nights hotels, 4 days trekking, 3 nights camping, 1 night mountain lodge

# ITINERARY

## 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

Following 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. After lunch, we'll enjoy our first stunning views of the granite towers as we begin our first day of hiking. From our starting point we'll hike approximately six miles to Torres Del Paine lookout above a small, glacial lake situated at the base of the remarkable towers. Our return hike ends near the rustic El Chileno Hut where a hot meal awaits! *Hiking Time 4-5 hours, B,L,D; O/N, camping*

## Day Five, El Chileno Hut to Los Cuernos Hut

Our trek descends the Ascencio Valley and heads southwest along the shores of Lake Nordenskjold. Our trail parallels this stunning aqua blue lake and finally reaches the lodge at Los Cuernos below the massive hanging glaciers of Mt. Admiral Nieto and the Los Cuernos peaks. *Hiking Time 5-6 hours; B,L,D; O/N, camping*

## Day Six, Los Cuernos Hut to Lago Pehoe via Valle Frances

There are two options today. You may hike directly from Los Cuernos Hut to Lago Pehoe (*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. Spend the evening relaxing in the new Paine Hut where hot showers and a hot meal await. *Hiking Time 4-5 or 8-10 hours; B,L,D; O/N, Lago Paine Grande hut*

## Day Seven, Lago Pehoe to Lago Grey

Today's journey travels along 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. If time and weather permit there is an opportunity for glacier trekking and ice climbing (no experience necessary!) with professional instruction in the use of crampons and ropes. *Hiking Time 3-4 hours; Glacier trekking additional 3-4 hours; B,L,D; O/N, camping*

## Day Eight, Lago Grey to Puerto Natales

After breakfast we board the Grey II Vessel for a spectacular two-hour journey that travels close to the Grey Glacier then descends Lago Grey amidst brilliant icebergs. We meet our vehicle and transfer two hours to Puerto Natales where hot showers and a final celebration dinner await. *B; O/N, Hotel in Puerto Natales*

## Day Nine, Puerto Natales to Punta Arenas to Santiago

We'll have an early breakfast and 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 10, Arrive Home

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