



10 DAY TORRES DEL PAINE FULL CIRCUIT

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Trip Duration: 10 days

Trip Difficulty:

Destination: Chile

Begins in: Santiago

Activities: 



INCLUDED

- Airport transfers
- Ground transportation
- National Park fees
- Accommodations
- Camping equipment
- All meals as stated
- Expert guides & porters

EXCLUDED

- Airfare
- Beverages
- Sleeping bag and mattress
- Tips

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Itinerary

DAY 1 Arrival in Santiago

Your first day begins in Santiago, the capital and largest city in Chile. Rich with history the downtown core is of 19th century neoclassical architecture and winding side-streets, dotted by art deco, neo-gothic buildings. After an airport transfer to your hotel, you can spend the day exploring the history of this cultural capital. Overnight Hotel Meridiano Sur

DAY 2 Santiago to Punta Arenas to Torres del Paine National Park

We will pick you at your hotel and transfer you to the airport for your flight to Punta Arenas. On arrival, a private transfer service will transport you to EcoCamp Patagonia located in the Torres del Paine National Park. This 5-hour drive will allow you to observe huge estancias (ranches) and open pampas and view some of the most unique animals. We will make a stop in Puerto Natales – a mountain-fringed fishing town, on the Sound of Last Hope and Cueva de Milodon, a large prehistoric cave where the remains of a giant ground sloth were discovered in the 1890's. The drive then takes you through unpaved roads to the Torres Del Paine National Park. Here you will have the opportunity to view and photograph exotic birds, as you pass through lagoons filled with black-neck swans and Chilean flamencos. Overnight EcoCamp Patagonia (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 3 Hike to Dickson

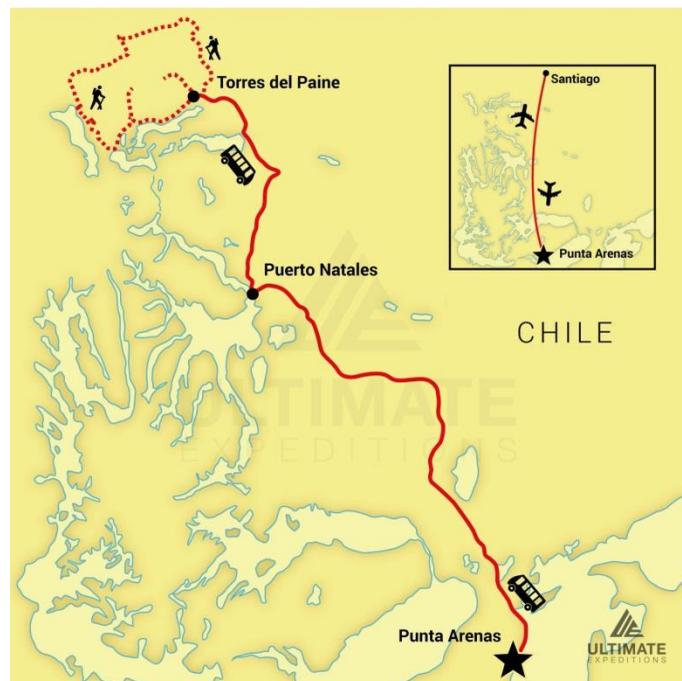
After breakfast, you will hike to Dickson Lake, situated in the Dickson Valley surrounded by towering snow-capped peaks and the crystalline waters. The trail leads north along the eastern bank of the Rio Paine. We will stop at a natural lookout point and enjoy a stunning panoramic view of the Lago Paine below, before we descend and continue west across open grasslands towards Refugio Dickson. The stunning Dickson Glacier and parts of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field can be spotted in the distance. Overnight at Dickson Camp (Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 4 Hike to Perros

We begin one the most scenic segments of the park today as the trail enters into an old growth beech forest. The trail passes under the Los Perros Glacier and merges into a small lake. Our hike will take us across a hanging bridge over Los Perros River to arrive at the terminal moraine of the hanging glacier. Overnight at Los Perros Campsite (Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 5 Hike to Camp Grey, via John Gardner Pass

This is the most difficult hiking day of the Full Circuit Trek; the trail starts with a 2-3 hour uphill climb as we cross the highest point in the park, the Paso John Gardner Pass. The southern Patagonia Ice Cap rewards us with endless views of glaciers, mountains and waterfalls in every direction. Grey Glacier spreads in the distance at 17 miles in length, 3 miles wide and nearly 100 feet tall. After climbing vertical ladders and crossing a suspension bridge we arrive at our campsite. Overnight at Grey Campground (Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner)



DAY 6 Hike to Pehoe Lake

We will have a leisurely morning, taking time to rest and enjoy the surrounding views before making our way along the eastern side of Lake Grey through clearings of gorgeous Calafate bushes. The view over the lake features giant icebergs drifting across the waters. The trail then becomes level as we descend through a shallow dry valley headed towards the turquoise waters of Lake Pehoe, where we will set-up camp. Overnight at Pehoe Lake Camp (Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner)

*Optional kayaking around Glacier Grey - begins at 9:00 and lasts 2.5 hours. Paddle around the glacier and giant floating icebergs.

DAY 7 Hike to Valle French

After breakfast, we will begin the challenging trek to Valle Frances (French Valley). The trail leads to the heart of the Paine Massif and is steep; the pace of the group will determine how far into the valley we go. A quicker pace will get us to the hanging bridge over the French River, located at the foot of the southeast face of the Massif, where we will be treated to fantastic views of the valley. We then continue to ascend towards the upper section of the valley where we will break for lunch. The days trek will end as we descend through an undulating terrain of mixed grassland and forest. Overnight Camp Cuernos (Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 8 Hike to Los Cuernos

Today we hike to EcoCamp Patagonia on the Cuernos trail, which will take us along the beautiful Lake Nordenskjold. The day's hike is less strenuous with a good mix of terrain, en route we will break for lunch. Once at camp we will enjoy a hearty meal and prepare for the next days challenge. Overnight EcoCamp Patagonia (Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 9 Hike to Las Torres

We hike towards Hostería Las Torres before ascending to Ascencio Valley on the Tower's eastern face. Mountain ridges, beech forests and small rivers fringe the scenic hike towards the valley. After climbing a steep moraine and a huge mass of boulders we reach the lookout and spot the iconic base of the Towers. After a difficult uphill climb, the Towers come into full view, rising majestically with the glacial lake below. Here we will have lunch enjoy, the views and then backtrack along the same trail through Ascencio Valley. Overnight EcoCamp Patagonia (Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 10 Transfer to Punta Arenas Airport - Fly to Santiago

On the last day, you will be transferred to Punta Arenas and fly back to Santiago. (Breakfast)

CHILE

Best Time to Visit

Chile within its borders hosts at least 7 major climatic subtypes, ranging from desert in the north, to alpine tundra and glaciers in the east and southeast, humid subtropical in Easter Island, Oceanic in the south and Mediterranean climate in central Chile. There are 4 seasons in most of the country: summer (December to February), autumn (March to May), winter (June to August), and spring (September to November). On a synoptic scale the most important factors that controls the climate in Chile are the Pacific Anticyclone, the southern circumpolar low pressure area, the cold Humboldt current, the Chilean Coast Range and the Andes Mountains.

Temperature

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Average High (F)	64	65	65	65	65	65
Average Low (F)	49	49	49	50	49	48

Month	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average High (F)	66	67	67	67	66	65
Average Low (F)	48	48	48	49	48	49

Entry Requirements

Chile Visas are issued on arrival. US Citizens pay \$140 per person. A passport valid for six months after date of entry is required. Visitors must hold return/onward tickets and all documents required for their next destination.

Vaccinations

Hepatitis A and B, Tetanus, and Typhoid immunizations are recommended for all travelers. Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>.

Travel Advisories

Make two photocopies of valuables such as your passport, tickets, visas and travelers' cheques. Keep one copy with you in a separate place to the original and leave another copy with someone at home.

Be sure to inform your credit card company as well as your bank you will travel internationally into South America. This will eliminate any credit card holds for fraudulent activity.



Currency

Carrying cash, an ATM or traveler's check card and also a credit card that can be used for cash advances in case of emergency is advisable. The best places to exchange money are normally bureau de change, which are fast, have longer hours and often give slightly better rates than banks. Local currency is Chilean Peso (CLP), however most places do not accept USD. Better hotels, lodges, and camps will accept credit cards, however it is advised to withdraw cash when visiting remote areas and villages.

Government

Chile takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic, whereby the president is both head of state and head of government.

Religion

Citizens of Chile most commonly identify themselves as Christian (Catholic with an estimated 70%). Other denominations include: Protestant or Evangelical, Jehovah's Witnesses, Jewish, Baha'I and Muslim.