

The "W": Trekking in Patagonia



Departs: Daily
Trip Length: 8 days
Accommodation: Camping and trekking lodges

Chimu
Difficulty
Rating



Day 1: Arrival in Punta Arenas.

Day 2: Enjoy the morning in the colourful port town of Punta Arenas before setting off for your drive to Torres del Paine National Park. We spend the night here.

Day 3: Los Cuernos Pass. Our path follows the Paso Los Cuernos trail under the Paine Massif and west towards the Refugio Los Cuernos. Our day is spent hiking between the turquoise lake to the south and the imposing mountains and vertical rock walls to the north. We also pass below the Cuernos (horns) of black slate that sit atop the grey granite of the Massif. We spend the night in a traditional trekking lodge.

Day 4: French Valley. Waking to a brisk Patagonia morning, we'll prepare for one of your fullest hiking days. Your first trail takes you from Lake Nordenskjold to Camp Italiano and ascends to Mirador del Frances. Our route follows undulating terrain consisting of rich grasslands, sparse forest and the torrents of Frances' River. Upon reaching the lookout point, we are treated to magnificent views of Frances' Glacier and the lakes below. Overnight in Lodge.

Day 5: Grey Glacier. We begin today's hike through a dense forest to Mirador (lookout) Grey. Here we're rewarded with views of the towering walls of Grey Glacier and floating icebergs below. This huge glacier represents the end of the Southern ice field. Depending on conditions, we might continue another few hours to the very walls of the glacier. Along the way we'll spot some of the 115 species of birds and learn a bit about this unique southern forest. In the afternoon, we will cruise on Lake Grey.

Days 6 - 7: Torres del Paine. Depending on the weather conditions we will hike to the foot of the gigantic spires of El Paine (8 hours roundtrip). Weather permitting, we will witness the most famous sight of the Torres del Paine (three granite monoliths reaching 9,400 feet). The towers are a testament to the massive glacial forces that carved them out of the earth. On the second day we walk to the Mirador Laguna Azul and then to the eastern side of Sarmiento Lake, a good spot to observe guanaco.

Day 8: Santiago. Transfer to Punta Arenas for the late afternoon flight to Santiago.

