



Patagonia – 9 Day Full Circuit Trek

Our Patagonia Full Circuit (O) Trek is different than the rest. While the traditional treks in Torres del Paine are very basic, with little inclusions, we have tried to make the trip a bit more comfortable, so that you can just focus on enjoying the beauty of this incredible park! The full circuit route is long and challenging as you cover over 110km/ 68 miles in distance over the route. This trek is designed for experienced hikers/backpackers as you will have 9 days back-to-back of hiking/camping along the way. Coming with optimum physical strength and endurance is essential to make sure you will enjoy this experience.

This is a camping itinerary. There are some Refugio's along the way, however we find that camping is a better experience for our trekkers.

What are the differences between the "W" and "O" Circuits? The "W" (5 days) is an abbreviated version of the "O" that passes through the heart of the Cordillera del Paine. The backside of the "O" doesn't pass as close to the big rock formations but is beautiful Patagonia terrain, nonetheless. Also, there are fewer people on the backside of the route. The O Circuit also brings you over the famous John Gardner Pass, with stunning views looking over to the Southern Patagonian Icefield!

The O Trek is a beautiful, real wilderness experience! If you are ready to take on a new challenge, with stunning mountain views, towering granite spires, sprawling glaciers, breath-taking mountain passes, intense and ever-changing weather... then this is the trek for you! Trekking Patagonia's 'O' Circuit will expose you to a completely different type of outdoor experience that you will never forget!

BRIEF ITINERARY

- Day 1: Arrive in Puerto Natales
- Day 2: Paine Grande
- Day 3: Valle Francés – Domos Francés
- Day 4: Chileno Campsite
- Day 5: Base Torres Lookout
- Day 6: Domos Serón
- Day 7: Dickson Campground
- Day 8: Campsite Los Perros
- Day 9: Campsite Grey
- Day 10: Glacier Grey Navigation – Puerto Natales
- Day 11: Departure from Puerto Natales



Day 1: Arrive at Puerto Natales Airport

On arrival to Puerto Natales Airport, you will pick up your belongings and start your Patagonian adventure! You will exit the airport and can see taxi options available to bring you to the hotel, where you will be booked on a shared bed and breakfast basis. The normal price of the taxi to/from Puerto Natales is around \$35. You will have a group briefing in the evening with our head guide to prepare you for the journey ahead. The guide will do a full gear check and review of the itinerary before heading to sleep that evening!

Day 2: Puerto Natales – Paine Grande Campground

After breakfast, your private transportation will take you to Torres del Paine National Park. Depending on the weather there will be photo opportunities during the drive heading towards the southern entrance of the National park. From there, we will make our way to Pudeto, where we take a catamaran across Lake Pehoe to the Paine Grande Campground, our first stay in the park. There, we will have beautiful views of the popular Cuernos Mountains. In this area, at times, you can experience some of the strongest wind in the park. After reaching our campsite, we prepare ourselves for a half day hike up to the lookout of the Lake Grey and some previews of Glacier Grey and the southern Patagonian Ice Field. In the evening Dinner will be served inside of the Refugio. Today's hike is an easier day, covering 13km/ 8 miles in approximately 4 – 5 hours of hiking. The total elevation gain today is 370m/ 1,214 feet.

Day 3: Valle Francés – Domos Francés

After breakfast, on this second day, we will make our way to the beautiful Valle del Francés (French Valley). After 3 hours of hiking to the Italian Campsite, we arrive at the ranger station, and we prepare ourselves to go up into the French Valley. The first section of the trail is steep and narrow. It takes one hour to arrive at the first viewpoint, where you can enjoy the view of the hanging glacier coming down from the largest mountain in the park, the Paine Grande. From here it is another 1.5 hours hiking in the forest to get to the second viewpoint, "Británico". This forest hike is easier and very relaxing, getting to a boulder field and finally the last lookout. With good weather and enough time, we can enjoy the amazing 360° view of the valley and surroundings. After the hike down, we pick up our backpacks again and finish the day with another 1.5-hour trek to our lodging for the night, Domos Francés. Today will be a more challenging hike with a total distance of 21km/ 13 miles covered. It should be between 8-9 hours with a total elevation gain of 950m/ 3,117 feet.

Day 4: Chileno Campground

After breakfast, we start hiking one of the most beautiful trails in the National Park.



Today will bring us to the "Ascencio Valley. We will cross the Patagonian steppe, cover steep inclines and descents with views overlooking Lago Nordenskjold and up against the impressive walls of the Cuernos formation and the Almirante Nieto Mountain. Around every corner, you will find a different perspective of the Patagonian landscape. After a few hours of hiking, we get to the "shortcut", a trail that will take us up to the Ascencio Valley where we will find Refugio Chileno next to the river, our campsite for the night. This short cut is the steepest part of the day which can take us some time. However, it is very much worth it getting into the valley which is explained in the next day. It should take approximately 6 – 7 hours and the total elevation gain is approximately 480 m/1,574 feet.

Day 5: Base Torres Lookout

This is the day we will have an early start to hike up to the three 'Torres'. Depending on the weather we have two possible departure times this morning. A very early option to see the famous golden glow while sunrise. An absolute stunning moment so let's keep our fingers crossed for some great weather. And a second early option to avoid all day trip people and enjoy the three towers with very few people early on. From Refugio Chileno we start walking in the through the Magellanic forests for an hour until getting to Ranger station Torres. Here we will have to start climbing our way up for 45 min to get to the 'Mirador' where we will be able to see the three towers standing in front of the glacial lake. These 45 min are challenging and steep up where we will take our time. After having enjoyed the spectacle at the towers, we will make our way back down to the base of the Valley where we will stay for the following night. Today will be a tough trek as we have a lot of elevation and descent. A total of 18km/ 11 miles of distance and it should take approximately 6 – 7 hours. The total elevation gain today is 480m/ 1,574 feet and 880 m / 2,887 feet descent.

Day 6: Domos Serón

After breakfast, we will head into the backside of the mountain, continuing what is known as the "Full circuit" trail. This area has a one-way trail, so there are less people around, giving the sensation of being in real wilderness. This day will bring us over forest hills, open grasslands and the view of the mountains that once were explored by the natives of the region. It is a 4–5-hour hike, so there is enough time to go slow and enjoy the day. The next lodging, "Domos Serón" is in the complete openness of this enchanted valley, giving us the opportunity to see wildlife, especially birds. Today we will cover 12km/ 7.5 miles, in approximately 4 – 5 hours. The total elevation gain is approximately 380m/ 1,246 feet.

Day 7: Dickson Campground

We leave Seron in the morning, walking over small hills and streams. The hike to Refugio Dickson is a long day with a challenging uphill known as the "Paso del



Viento” (pass of the wind). The view on “Paso del Viento” is unforgettable and literally breath-taking. We can see the mountains that are shared with Argentina on the southern Patagonian Icefield. From this mountain pass, we descend into the wetlands, passing close to the river Paine until we arrive at Campsite Dickson. This is one of the most remote and beautiful areas in the National Park, with the view of Lake Dickson, and the whole mountain range. Today will be a tough day with 19km/ 12 miles of distance to cover in approximately 7-8 hours. The total elevation gain is approximately 300m/ 984 feet.

Day 8: Campsite Los Perros

Today, we hike through one of the oldest native forests of the national park. This forest is home of the Magellanic Woodpecker - the largest woodpecker living in South America. Walking through this area of trees really gives a peaceful and relaxing example of Patagonian pristine nature. After 4 to 5 hours hiking, we find the view of Glacier Perros, one of the hanging glaciers in the mountain range Paine. We arrive at Camping los Perros, located in the middle of the forest, and next to the river. Total distance today is approximately 11km/ 6.8 miles, and it should take approximately 4-5 hours. The total elevation gain is 180m/ 590 feet to 680m/ 2,230 feet.

Day 9: Grey Campground

Today is one of our toughest days on the trail. This is the day that we will complete the famous John Garner Pass. A mountain pass next to the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. Weather changes often in this area and the Patagonian winds can make this an unforgettable day. Together with the breath-taking views of the mountains and Glacier Grey, we also get views of the outskirts of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. This is one of the most spectacular views in the park. Once over the pass, we will head to “Campsite Paso”. After a break to recover some energy, we start the second part of our day trekking next to Glacier Grey. We cross three beautiful hanging bridges while passing view after view of the glacier beside us. Today will be a long and challenging day as it will take us approximately 9-10 hours before reaching “Campsite Grey” for our last night in the park. The total distance today is 22km/ 13.7 miles.

Day 10: Glacier Grey Navigation – Puerto Natales

Today is the last day we are in the national park, finishing off with an amazing boat trip, that goes through Lake Grey. After our breakfast, we will board the 9.30am catamaran that will take us to the beach at the southern end of the lake Grey. This boat is a large catamaran that takes us to all three of the glacial walls that drop into the lake. It is the perfect way to end our 9- day trek. With a well-deserved Pisco Sour in your hand, we look back on the John Garner Pass while we navigate south. After we



dock, we will have our last march over a windy pebble beach before reaching the parking lot, where our transport will be waiting for us.

On the way back to Puerto Natales we stop at the spectacular natural monument, Milodon Cave. This location is the site of three natural caves, where the remains of the very large Patagonian Land Sloth was found. This site has now been turned into a very important scientific and paleontological site, with a visitor center. The museum shows how the caves were formed, thousands of years ago, and why this place is so important for the history of the region. We will walk for 45 min through the main cave while the guide explains all the details of the caves and the area.

After the museum, we will then get back in the vehicle for another half an hour drive to Puerto Natales where we will arrive around 5pm, where you will be dropped off at your hotel.

Day 11: End of Service

This morning, you may enjoy a relaxed breakfast in your hotel and have time to explore Puerto Natales afterwards. You will want to arrange with the hotel a taxi back to the airport, allowing at least two hours before your flight departs. This will be the end of your Patagonian Adventure!

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Every effort will be made to keep to the above itinerary, but as this is adventure travel in a remote mountain region, we cannot guarantee it. Weather conditions, road conditions, vehicle breakdowns and the health of participants can all contribute to changes. The Trek Leader will try to ensure that the trip runs according to plan, but an easy-going nature will be an asset!

Included in the Price:

- Certified and experienced guide 1:5 pax ratio
- Private Transportation to and from the Torres del Paine National Park
- Catamaran Navigation over Lago Pehoe (30 min)
- Catamaran Navigation over Lago Grey (Full circuit, 2 hours)
- Park Entrance Fees
- National Park Permits
- All lodgings within the park (Campsite in the campgrounds)
- All meals within the park (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner + Snacks)
- Camping and Cooking equipment (tents, sleeping bags, mattress are provided in camps)
- Office support 5 days per week prior to the trek
- 2 Nights Hotel in Puerto Natales on a shared basis



Not Included:

- All meals (excluding breakfast) in Puerto Natales
- Airport Transfers to/from Puerto Natales (should be approximately \$35 for a taxi transfer)
- Porterage of gear (you are expected to carry your own gear, or you can hire a porter at an extra cost if desired)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal equipment (Backpack, clothing, personal first aid, headlamp, trekking poles, etc.)
- Travel Insurance (compulsory)
- International Flights to/from Puerto Natales
- Tips for the guides/porters (approximately \$350 is recommended)

Important Note:

Most of the trekking itineraries to Torres del Paine National Park are designed for full wilderness, backpacking experiences! This means carrying all your own food, tents, clothing, and equipment and putting up your own tents at camp. We have decided to only offer an upgraded version of this itinerary for our clients! We will be using the upgraded campgrounds in the park, and your tents/sleeping bags/mattresses will already be set up for your comfort on arrival each day. Therefore, you will not have to carry any extra items. You will only hike with your daypack that will include your water, spare clothing, and toiletries for the trek. All your meals will be prepared inside of the Refugio's; therefore, you will not have to carry any extra food with you either.

There is another option to hire porters to help with your personal gear weight if you would prefer to not carry anything besides your water/rain gear/etc, each day. Porters can carry a maximum of 15kg/33lbs and the cost of this is \$200 per day or a total of \$1,800 for the trip.