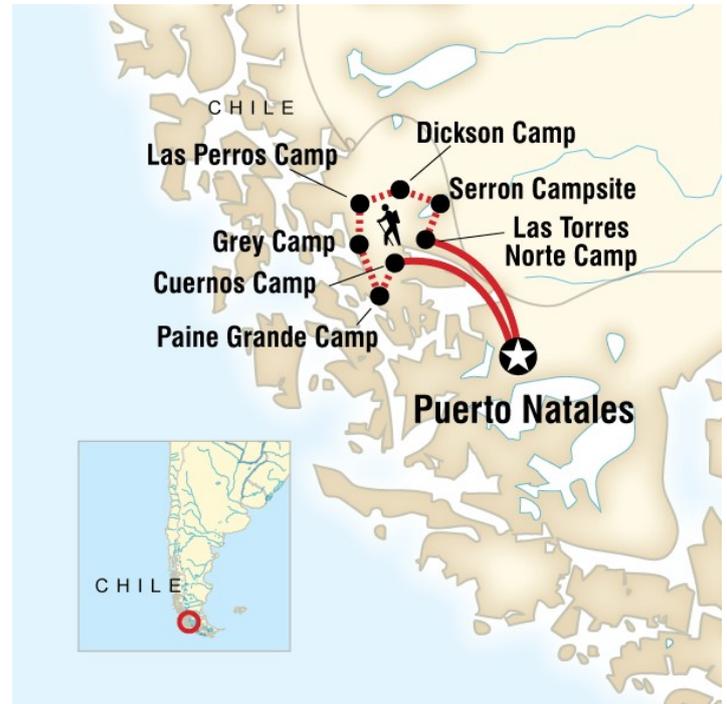


# Patagonia - Torres del Paine & El Chalten - 12D/11N

## Trip Summary

Day	Main Activities	Duration	Meals	Accommodation Options
1	Collect - Punta Arenas - Drive to Ecocamp			
2	Eco Camp to Refugio Cuernos	4.5 hrs	BLD	EcoCamp
3	Paine Massif to French Valley	10 hrs	BLD	EcoCamp
4	Glacier Grey (Ice climbing option)	4 hrs	BLD	EcoCamp
5	Glacier Grey to Las Torres	9 hrs	BLD	EcoCamp
6	Eastern Lakes	3 hrs	BLD	EcoCamp
7	From Eco Camp to Calafate		BL	Overnight Califate
8	Perito Moreno (Glacier).	8 hrs	BLD	Overnight Califate
9-11	El Chalten 3D - Biking, Fishing, Hiking	9-7 hrs	BL	3* Hostel
12-	Back to Calafate. Out via Ferry		B	



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## Day 1: Collection from Punta Arenas & drive to EcoCamp Patagonia

The trip begins with you being picked up from your hotel in Punta Arenas or Punta Arenas airport in the morning and driven to EcoCamp Patagonia, located in the world-famous Torres del Paine National Park. Alternatively, you can start your trip in Calafate.

Today is all about absorbing the beauty of Patagonia at your first glimpse. We will drive through the flats and fiords of this southern Continent. Nearly after 3 hours we will be in Puerto Natales, a small, lively town, where we enjoy a hearty local lunch and meet our trekking guide. After lunch we will head to Torres del Paine National Park. Stunning views once we get closer to EcoCamp our lodge for tonight. Domes with a privileged view of Las Torres. A cosy and warm house for the night.

Sunset is usually around 11pm during the summer months, meaning that there will still be enough daylight for you to admire the Patagonia.

Overnight EcoCamp Patagonia, Torres del Paine National Park

**Start Point:** Punta Arenas

**Finish Point:** EcoCamp Patagonia

## Day 2: Los Cuernos Trail

Torres del Paine NP, Chile  
We begin our Patagonian adventure with a pleasant walk through the sinuous Cuernos Trail which leads us alongside the beautiful Lake Nordenskjöld. Strong winds, all kind of surface trails, rocks, dirt, up hill, down hill all the way to Refugio Los Cuernos, a mountain refuge located by the shores of Lake Nordenskjöld. The evening is free for relaxing and enjoying dinner.

Overnight Refugio Cuernos or Domo El Francés (depending on availability), Torres del Paine National Park

**Start Point:** EcoCamp Patagonia

**Finish Point:** Refugio Cuernos

**Walking time:** 4.5 hrs

**Distance:** 12km – 7.5mi

**Max. Altitude:** 244m – 800ft



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### Day 3: Valle Frances Trail

Torres del Paine NP, Chile  
After breakfast at Refugio Los Cuernos, we will begin the challenging trek to Valle Frances (French Valley), along a steep trail that leads to the very heart of the Paine Massif.

Continuing to ascend towards the upper section of the valley where we will be able to marvel at the extensive mass of the valley's geological formations.

After our ascent, we will stop for a picnic and relax a while.

This day's trek will end as we descend through an undulating terrain of mixed grassland and light forest which will take us to Refugio Paine Grande. N.B. An optional trek to Mirador Britanico is also available.

Overnight Refugio Paine Grande, Torres del Paine National Park

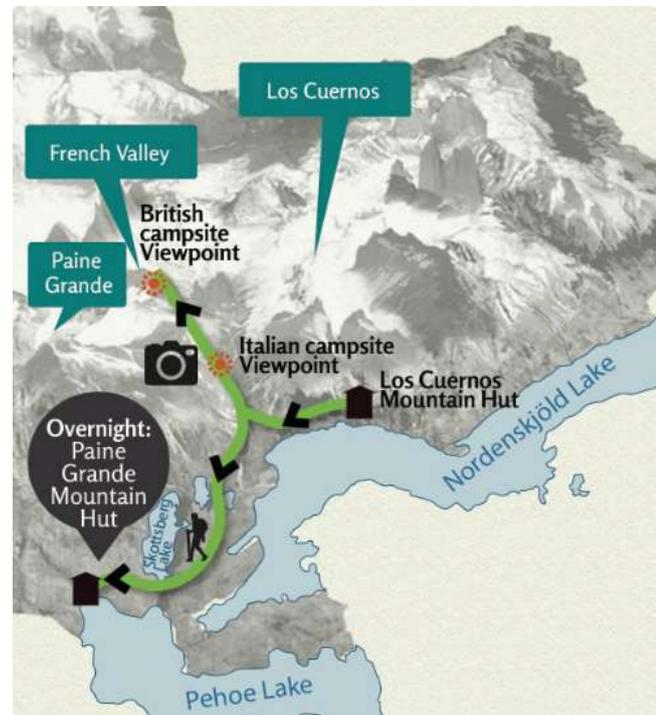
**Start Point:** Refugio Cuernos

**Finish Point:** Refugio Paine Grande

**Walking time:** 10 hrs

**Distance:** 26km – 16mi

**Max. Altitude:** 686m – 2,250ft



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### Day 4: Grey Glacier Trail

Torres del Paine NP, Chile  
This day will see us hike from Paine Grande Refugio along the shores of Lake Pehoe to the northern side of the glacially beautiful Lake Grey. We will feast on a picnic lunch before boarding the boat that sails right to the facade of Glacier Grey, where we will have plenty of time to marvel at the calving glacier. From the southern end of Glacier Grey we will transfer to EcoCamp.

\*Optional Kayaking around Glacier Grey: This excursion starts at 13:00 and lasts 2,5 hours where you will discover the amazing glacier and kayak around huge floating icebergs, towards the east side of the glacier to get closer to the giant ice wall (Min. age: 15 ; Max age: 65)

(Note: Kayaking option is only available until March 19th)

Overnight EcoCamp Patagonia, Torres del Paine National Park

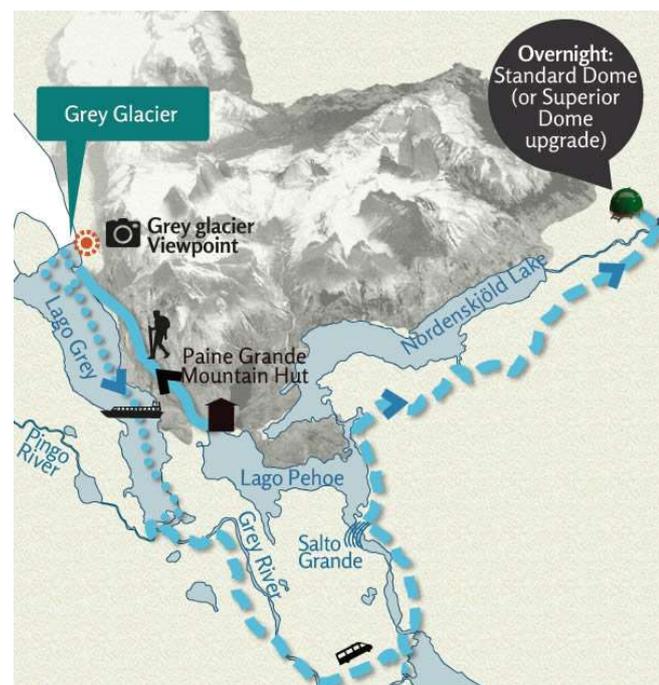
**Start Point:** Refugio Paine Grande

**Finish Point:** Grey Viewpoint

**Walking time:** 4 hrs

**Distance:** 11km – 7mi

**Max. Altitude:** 244m – 800ft



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## Day 5: Las Torres Trail

Torres del Paine NP, Chile  
The goal of our fifth day of our 7-day Trek will be to complete the most famous trekking trail in Torres del Paine National Park. We will walk from the campsite towards Hostería Las Torres before ascending to Ascencio Valley on the Tower's eastern face.

Mountain ridges, beech forests and small rivers line the scenic walk towards the valley. Our big challenge comes in the form of the steep moraine, a huge mass of boulders which will lead us to that iconic base-view of the Towers - Three gigantic granite monoliths, the remains of a great cirque sheared away by the forces of glacial ice.

After a tough uphill climb, the Towers eventually come into full view, with the glacial lake visible below. A great place to have lunch. We backtrack along the same trail through Ascencio Valley and return to EcoCamp for a well-deserved dinner.

Overnight EcoCamp Patagonia, Torres del Paine National Park

**Start Point:** EcoCamp Patagonia

**Finish Point:** EcoCamp Patagonia

**Walking time:** 9 hrs

**Distance:** 22km – 14mi

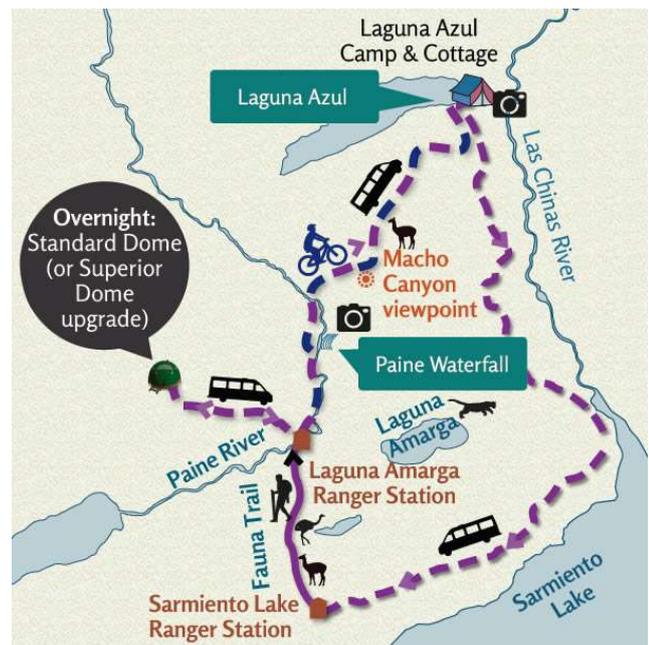
**Max. Altitude:** 914m – 3,000ft

## Day 6: Eastern Lakes

Torres del Paine NP, Chile  
The sixth day will consist of a less strenuous trail in order to counter the exhausting efforts of the previous day. After breakfast, we will take a leisurely car journey towards Laguna Azul, passing Cañadón Macho, home to many wild guanacos and ñandúes, en route.

At Laguna Azul, we will hike to the lookout point where we will be treated to a gorgeous view of both the lagoon and granite towers.

After lunch, we will drive to the northern shore of Sarmiento Lake where the Fauna Trail begins. As we hike northbound, we will spot an impressive range of Patagonian fauna on the vast plains, including: guanacos, ostrich-like ñandús and maybe the occasional puma print! We will pass the charming Goic lagoon and after approximately 5km of relaxed walking, we will reach the Laguna Amarga ranger station where we will be picked up and driven back to Ecocamp to celebrate over our farewell dinner.



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*\*Please note that if there are more than 6 travellers in the group there's an option to split into two groups, with one group (or the whole group if everybody's in the mood!) cycling to Laguna Azul!*

Overnight EcoCamp Patagonia, Torres del Paine National Park

**Start Point:** EcoCamp Patagonia

**Finish Point:** EcoCamp Patagonia

**Walking time:** 3hrs

**Distance:** 6km – 4mi

**Max. Altitude:** 180m – 590ft

### **EcoCamp Patagonia [4] (Nights 1,4,5,6)**

EcoCamp Patagonia is located in the heart of Torres del Paine National Park in Chile, with views of the majestic granite towers. The region's first sustainable lodge south of the Amazon and the first of its kind in the Patagonian wilderness, EcoCamp offers upscale camping in domes inspired by the region's ancient nomadic inhabitants.

**EcoCamp Patagonia Standard Dome [5]** (Shared bathroom, 10m<sup>2</sup>/108ft<sup>2</sup>) EcoCamp Standard domes were the world's first lodge accommodation in geodesic shape. They are resistant to the strong Patagonian winds, and come equipped with two single beds (doubles on request), cozy fleece blankets and feather quilts. There are windows in the ceiling for stargazing. Standard domes include shared bathrooms which are large, comfortable and gender divided.

**EcoCamp Patagonia Suite Dome [6]** (Heating & Private bathroom, 28m<sup>2</sup>/300ft<sup>2</sup>) Suite domes were designed to further our goal of providing comfort in a natural setting with minimal environmental impact, and also maintain the hotel's familiar and cozy vibe. The domes have comfortable double or twin beds, a wood stove and a private bathroom with a state-of-the-art composting toilet.

**EcoCamp's Suite Dome Lofts [7]** (2 floors, Heating & Private bathroom, 37m<sup>2</sup>/398ft<sup>2</sup>) Suite dome lofts are two-storey domes which fit up to four people and have comfortable double or twin beds both up and downstairs. These domes, ideal for families or groups of friends, come with a wood stove, a private terrace and a private bathroom with a state-of-the-art composting toilet.

**EcoCamp Patagonia Superior Dome [8]** (Heating & Private bathroom, 23m<sup>2</sup>/250ft<sup>2</sup>) Spacious, comfortable and equipped with private bathrooms, Superior Domes are the optimum choice for trekkers wanting that bit more space and comfort at the end of a long day's walk. Each Superior Dome has comfortable queen-size or twin beds, a propane heater, skylight windows and a private bathroom with a sophisticated composting toilet.

**Mountain huts / Refugios** (Nights 2,3) Typical mountain huts, open to the public visiting Torres del Paine. They have rooms for 46 people. The beds are single bunks and we will provide you with a sleeping bag and a polar fleece liner (you don't need to bring a sleeping bag!). The bathrooms are also shared and they have hot water. The refugios are heated and have a very comfortable dining area where plentiful meals are served. If refugios are unavailable, alternative accommodation will be provided in tents with prior notice.

**Domes El Francés** (Night 2 / Alternative to Refugio) Geodesic domes, open to the public visiting Torres del Paine. The domes have an amazing view of Nordenskjöld lake, Cuernos del Paine and Paine Grande Mountains and come with a private bathroom for 8 people each (shared bathroom and dome). Accommodation are single

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bed or bunk beds and we will provide you with a sleeping bag and a polar fleece liner (you don't need to bring a sleeping bag!)

*W Trek advisable minimum age for Children is 12 years. We highly advise having had previous experience in trekking, back packing, or find yourself in good shape & ready to be part of a wild environment with some challenging trekking.*

## **Day 7: Journey to Argentina and exploring El Calafate**

Torres del Paine National Park to Los Glaciares National Park Argentina The day will start early in the morning with a hearty breakfast before you make your way to Cerro Castillo at 06:30. There, you will board the bus which will take you across the border to Argentina!\*

We will continue across the Argentinian pampas until your arrival at El Calafate, a beautiful, small town located just outside of Los Glaciares National Park. Here we'll have the whole day free to explore the town and enjoy its attractive restaurants and artisan handicraft markets.

Optional: During the afternoon you will have the chance to take a self-guided tour to Calafate's Glaciarium Museum and Ice Bar. The Glaciarium is a modern research center devoted to the Patagonian Icefield and its glaciers. It is one of the only glaciological research centers of its kind in the world.

From there, you can visit the 'GlacioBar', which is constructed entirely of ice, and taste the chill of glacier ice cubes swimming around in your favourite drink.

Overnight stay at Hotel Kosten Aike, El Calafate, Argentina

*\*We strongly advise you to research Argentinian border-crossing regulations beforehand. There may be a fee to pay for some nationalities to cross.*

## **Day 8: Perito Moreno (Glacier) Los Glaciares National Park**

After an early breakfast, we'll drive approximately 80km through the beautiful Andean foothills, along the south bank of Lake Argentino. After crossing the River Centinela and Mitre, we enter at Brazo Rico to Los Glaciares National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1981 and home to one of the most awe inspiring landscapes in Argentina. Enjoy stunning views of the glacier from the nearby walking trail and viewing platforms where you can appreciate the height of its massive ice walls, which are 60m high and extend to 100m below lake level.

The glacier advances on the waters of the lake, until reaching the opposite shore. The rupture of the glacier is a spectacular process that begins as the glacier advances to the front of the peninsula of Magallanes until forming a natural dike of ice. This formation obstructs the drainage of the water from the Rica Arm to the Channel of the Tempanos.

As the waters of the Rio Arm exert pressure on the wall of the glacier a tube of ice is formed that allows for water flow between the basins and lakes again. Finally, this tunnel collapses. This event can last from 1 to 2 days and offers a spectacular show of singular beauty. Once it is complete, two basins obstruct the channel and the whole process begins again.

Overnight stay at Hotel Kosten Aike, El Calafate, Argentina

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## **Day 9: The Patagonian Adventure Starts** *Los Glaciares NP, Argentina*

From Calafate we will cross the Argentinian Patagonia to El Chaltén, a small town, surrounded by rocky mountains, a paradise for rock climbers from all over the world. Also known for its good wine, craft beers and food. Starting next to Los Glaciares National Park found right at the foot of the breath-taking Mount Fitz Roy. Our drive will take us across isolated dirt roads, through the pampas and along the northern side of Viedma Lake. Once we are all checked in at our hotel in El Chaltén, it's time for our heads to hit the pillow to rest and prepare for the upcoming days

- Overnight Hosteria Senderos 3\*, El Chaltén
- N.B. The following excursions around El Chaltén might vary in order.

## **Day 10: Laguna Los Tres** *Los Glaciares NP, Argentina*

Today we will trek to Laguna Los Tres, enjoying a stunning view of Mount Fitz Roy - the ultimate landmark of Los Glaciares National Park. We will begin our hike by heading towards Laguna Capri, passing its northern corner. Then we shall follow the Fitz Roy Trail up to Blanco River, passing the mountaineering camp, Poicén. Finally, a short steep trail will take us to Laguna de Los Tres, where we will be lucky enough to witness one of the park's most marvelous natural scenes - the turquoise-blue lagoon framed by Fitz Roy's spires, turrets and glaciers. When everyone is ready and raring to set off again, we will hike back to Laguna Capri and continue along the trail back to tiny Chaltén.

Overnight Hosteria Senderos 3\*, El Chaltén

## **Day 11: Hike to Laguna Torre** *Los Glaciares NP, Argentina*

Today we will embark upon a full day hike along the Cerro Torre trail to Laguna Torre, a glimmering mountain lake with the majestic Mount Torre looming behind. We will be putting our best foot forward straight after breakfast, walking eastwards and blazing our trail through beech forests, towards Fitz Roy River.

We will continue towards Base Camp de Agostini, and then make a short hike to Laguna Torre, admiring the western view of Cerro Torre and the Adela range. Our eyes will be met by icebergs serenely floating on Laguna Torre as the gusty wind sets them drifting towards the coast. We can stop at various points to appreciate the magnificent view and enjoy a tasty picnic. Later, we shall return to Chaltén, returning along the same trail.

Once we're back, we'll be free to enjoy a delicious dinner at one of Chaltén's cosy restaurants before heading back to our hotel for some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

Overnight Hosteria Senderos 3\*, El Chaltén

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## Day 12: Transfer out to Calafate Airport & Adiós *Calafate, Argentina*

Today marks the end of our incredible trip! Adiós Patagonia, hopefully we'll meet again! After having breakfast, a transfer will take us to Calafate airport. It's never goodbye, only until the next time!

### Trek Details. Distances & Timings

Date / Day	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12
<i>trail name</i>		Trail to Laguna Los Tres	Trail to Laguna Torre	
<i>starting point</i>		Chalten Town	Chalten Town	
<i>finishing point</i>	arrive	Chalten Town	Chalten Town	leave
<i>approx walking time</i>	in El Chalten	9 hrs	7 hrs	El Calafate
<i>distance</i>		25km / 16mi	22 km / 14 mi	
<i>max altitude point</i>		1175m / 3,854ft	650m / 2,133ft	

### SERVICES INCLUDED:

Private car for all of the transfers and tours.

Private bilingual guides for all excursions.

First Aid kit

Meals indicated in the itinerary.

All Hotels & Campsites Included

### SERVICES NOT INCLUDED:

Meal not mentioned in the itinerary.

International and domestic flights.

Tips for guides and field staff.