



Torres del Paine - Full day

Full day trip from Puerto Natales – Saturday August 23rd

7am to 7pm (12 hours)

Led by local field trip leader and field trip geologist

Torres del Paine National Park, declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1978, hosts a wide range of unique ecosystems which express the rainshadow effect created by the Andean mountain range, each one hosting amazing biodiversity. The Park preserves several glaciers from the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, third biggest mass of glacial ice in the World. It is also a Geologists' paradise, a hotspot for research on its Miocene granitic laccolith, which intruded Cretaceous sedimentary rocks 12.5 MY BP.

This trip heads north from Puerto Natales across an evidently ice-shaped landscape (during Last Glacial Maximum), turning from an undulating steppe to a hilly shrubland to lush Patagonian forest-covered mountain slopes as we move west into the Paine mountains and the Andes.

Highlights:

- Watch moraines along the way, remnants of the Patagonian Ice Sheet which covered Patagonia until after 20 ky BP
- Glaciolacustrine terraces from glacial paleolake, ca. 13-10 ky BP
- Mesozoic turbidite sequences of conglomerates, sandstones and shales, including flute casts
- Torres del Paine Miocene intrusive igneous complex
- Intrusive dykes, basaltic and rhyolitic
- Last Glacial Maximum and Neoglacial moraines, erratics
- Cretaceous Inoceramus and Belemnite fossils in strata
- Visitor's Center at CONAF Administration including rock display, terrain scale model and glacial striae on turbidite sandstones
- Walk 6 km round trip to Grey Lake, which was part of the Patagonian Ice Sheet until ca. 5 ky BP, watching moraines, playa deposits, glacial striae and stranded icebergs

After visiting the Park from East to West, lunch at Hotel Lago Grey, then hike to lake shore and back, to return to Puerto Natales.

Included

Transportation, pick up and drop off in Puerto Natales

Snack & lunch
Park entrance fee
Estancia Laguna Amarga entrance fee (flute casts site, outside the Park)

Not included

Transportation between Punta Arenas and Puerto Natales
Accommodation in Puerto Natales
Other services not mentioned

Important to know

Please consider that in order to join any of the field trips that take place in Puerto Natales, you have to be in this location by the night before. It takes a bit over 3 hours to travel between these two cities and both field trips based out of "Natales" start early each day.

Prices

Per person, in chilean pesos (CLP)
Minimum of participants: 10
10 to 14 participants - CLP 350.000.-
15 to 29 participants - CLP 315.000.-
30 to 44 participants - CLP 299.000.-
45 to 59 participants - CLP 284.000.-
60 to 74 participants - CLP 270.000.-
75 to 90 participants - CLP 257.000.-
90 participants and above - CLP 244.000.-

The final date to confirm the departure of each field trip will be **Friday August the 8th**.
The final price per person of each field trip will be determined by the number of participants confirmed by **Sunday August the 10th**.

Please write to us if you have any questions

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