

TORRES DEL PAINE EXPLORER

FROM \$2,575 • 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS • VIGOROUS TRIP Knowmad specializes in private and custom travel. Itineraries and physical difficulty are often flexible.



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Kayak in the iceberg-choked glacial waters of Lago Grey and approach the massive Grey Glacier
- Hike into the dramatic French Valley and witness rumbling avalanches in an amphitheater of granite peaks
- Summit the famous Paine Towers while completing the famous 'W' route of Patagonia's Torres Del Paine National Park. • Explore the famed Lost City of Machu Picchu and the Sun Gate
- Spend your evenings in Patagonia's stunning natural surroundings and sleep in comfortable backcountry refugios

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 Punta Arenas – Puerto Natales

After arriving to Punta Arenas your guide will meet you at the airport and you'll unwind on a 3-hours scenic drive through Patagonian Pampa to the small town of Puerto Natales. After arriving to your hotel nestled on Last Hope Sound with views of the Serrano Glacier, enjoy a delicious dinner while chatting with your guide about the adventure to come.

- D - Kau Lodge

DAY 2 Base of the Towers Hike

You'll head out early by van and enter Torres del Paine National Park. Begin trekking to the Ascencio Valley where from above you see the river running wildly past Refugio Chileno where you will spend your first night. After a quick stop here continue through a forest of the native lenga (southern beech) trees until reaching glacial moraine. From here it's an hours trek before the towers seemingly emerge from nowhere.

This spectacular hike affords views to three pink granite towers above a hanging glacial lake, and below is part of what gives Torres del Paine its fame.

Hiking detail: approximately 6 hours, 16 km or 10 miles

- B, L, D - Refugio Chileno, bunk bed accommodations with shared facilities

DAY 3 Las Torres – Lago Nordenskjold - Horns of Paine

After a hearty camp breakfast, we continue our spectacular hike along the shores of Lake Nordenskjold and, if you're feeling up for it, take a dip in the icy waters as we picnic on the beach. This classic hike runs just below the towering Horns of Paine before past the hanging glaciers of Almirante Nieto and onward to the base of Los Cuernos mountains.

Hiking detail: approximately 5 hours, 11 km or 6 miles

- B, L, D – Refugio Los Cuernos

DAY 4 French Valley

Today you head into the park's most beautiful valley, one unique in the world for its beauty. Throughout this full day's hike enjoy fantastic views of the natural granite amphitheater that makes up this enclosed valley, as well as the waterscapes below including lakes Pehoe, Skottsberg, Toro and Nordenskjold. It is also possible to hear and see avalanches coming down from the glacier. Hike deep and high into the valley or relax and soak in the scenery before trekking onward to Paine Grande Lodge where you can enjoy a pisco sour (famed Chilean cocktail) as the sun sets over the Paine Grande and Los Cuernos Mountains.

Hiking detail: approximately 6-8 hours, 15-24 km, or 9-14 mi. depending)

- B, L, D – Paine Grande Lodge

DAY 5 Kayaking Glacier Grey

Setting out early you will hike along the Grey Lake before its massive glacier at Lake's end comes into sight. Continuing on you will reach the glacier lookout point witnessing giant floating icebergs up close and the Patagonian Ice Field's most spectacular glacier. Relax and enjoy a lavish picnic in the midst of this natural wonder before a safety briefing and suiting up for your glacier kayak. This once in a lifetime experience allows you to safely kayak amongst massive icebergs and up to the face of the glacier towering above.

Activity detail: approximately 3-4 hrs hiking, 11 km or 6 mi., 3 hours kayaking

- B, L, D – Lago Grey Lodge

DAY 6 Grey Glacier Ice Hiking

After breakfast your expert guide will give you a safety, technique, and equipment briefing before strapping on your crampons and embarking upon the glacier. The route reveals the immensity of the glacier itself with its crevices, slopes and cracks. Those with experience will have the opportunity to do some vertical ice climbing. After a few hours return to terra firma for a delicious lunch followed by an amazing boat ride aboard the Grey II back to the face of the glacier for an



iceberg pisco sour and relaxed two hour cruise through icebergs. Upon disembarking you will transfer by van back to your lakeside hotel to refresh and relax before a rousing farewell dinner.

- B, L, D – Kau Lodge

DAY 7 Puerto Natales – Punta Arenas – Onward

Departing Puerto Natales you will visit the Magellenic penguins at their colony in Otway Sound before continuing on to Punta Arenas airport in accordance with your onward flight home.

- B



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

2013 COSTS \$2,575 per person (4 or more travelers) / \$3,345 per person (2 travelers). Additionally, regional airfare is estimated at \$300 (Santiago/Punta Arenas & Punta Arenas/Santiago—subject to change). Knowmad Adventures is happy to book and issue these tickets for you.

WHAT YOUR TRIP COST INCLUDES

Personalized pre-departure support
 All ground transportation with professional driver
 Backcountry field arrangements as necessary
 All necessary equipment for adventure excursions
 Local excursions as indicated
 Airport transfers as indicated
 Expert leadership and guiding
 Additional guides and porters as needed
 All entrance fees where applicable
 Meals noted on program (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
 Lodging as noted in program

WHAT YOUR TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

Visa, passport, departure/arrival and excess baggage fees (\$140 USD Chilean entrance fee to be paid to customs at airport)
 Trip insurance (we strongly recommend you obtain trip insurance offered by Knowmad Adventures, including trip cancellation insurance)
 Meals not indicated in the itinerary
 Optional tipping to local guides and staff
 Personal items
 Alcohol unless otherwise noted
 * Activities listed as optional and/or denoted with asterisk

TYPE Flexible Date Private Departures. You choose the date, your travel companions and one of our adventures. This is great for families, groups of friends and couples.

VIGOROUS TRIP These trips typically require very good physical condition or pre-existing skills. Expect to be in challenging terrain for long durations. Activities include mountain biking, ice hiking, canoeing, cultural opportunities, history, shopping, wildlife viewing.

DEPARTURES October through April.

LENGTH 7 days – 6 nights comfortable hotels

BEGIN | END Punta Arenas or Puerto Natales, Chile

SUMMARY

The rugged natural beauty of the Patagonian landscape goes beyond words and expectations. Granite towers thrust some 6,000 feet from the expansive plains dotted with glacially formed turquoise lakes. Southern beech forests dot the land while enormous glaciers continue carving the landscape. This pristine beauty comes to its height in Chile's Torres (Towers) Del Paine National Park, which contains vast networks of trails to access thousands of acres of wilderness and wildlife. Some say it is like Yosemite and the Grand Tetons rolled into one.

The Torres Del Paine Explorer pairs exciting outdoor adventure activities with their ideal terrain: kayak amongst icebergs, ice hike atop glaciers and hike the famous 'W' route in Torres Del Paine National Park. Spot wild guanacos, condors, penguins and other wildlife as you journey amongst turquoise lakes, hanging glaciers and jagged granite peaks. This exciting multisport itinerary is packed with unforgettable Patagonian scenery and challenging outdoor adventure at the end of the world.

AIR TRAVEL

INTERNATIONAL

Airfare is not included in the land cost of our trips. You may arrange your international airfare independently, or we are happy to offer our feedback and assistance in helping you book it.

REGIONAL

If booked by Knowmad Adventures, internal airfare for this trip (Santiago/Punta Arenas & Punta Arenas/Santiago) averages \$300, however this is an approximation and the airfare is subject to change upon booking. If you would like to arrange your own regional flights, please consult us prior so we can verify the departure and arrival times.

WEATHER & WHEN TO GO

Please note that some of the activities are weather dependent. Patagonian weather is unpredictable. Expect sunshine as well as some rainy, windy South Atlantic weather.

MONTH	AVG. TEMP.	& RAINFALL	MONTH	AVG. TEMP.	& RAINFALL
January	64°F	1.2"	July	38°F	4.2"
February	56°F	0.9"	August	41°F	3.7"
March	57°F	1.6"	September	48°F	2.1"
April	52°F	2.4"	October	52°F	1.7"
May	43°F	3.4"	November	59°F	1.5"
June	37°F	3.9"	December	62°F	1.1"

Prior to your departure, we provide you with a detailed pre-trip information packet, which includes a recommended pack list, information about the regions you'll be visiting, suggested readings, and up-to-date health information including any recommended vaccinations.

EXTEND YOUR ADVENTURE



WINE COUNTRY Bike from vineyard to vineyard on gentle country roads, tour the cellars, taste fine wines, eat gourmet cuisine and stay in charming boutique hotels. With premier wine growing valleys just an hour from Santiago, a few days in wine country is an ideal extension to your adventure and a good example of the diversity of landscapes and lifestyles within Chile.

ATACAMA DESERT Looking for unique? Earth's closest thing to Mars, Atacama will not disappoint. Your trip to this surreal landscape offers countless cultural and adventure excursions to choose from during the day, while spending nights in a true oasis, the Tierra Atacama boutique hotel and spa. Return for a dip in the pool and enjoy a local cabernet with gourmet cuisine. Don't forget to take advantage of the world's best moonscape and stargazing.

EASTER ISLAND A tropical paradise with history, culture and mystery at every beautiful turn, a visit to Easter Island – the world’s most isolated speck of land - will captivate any traveler. Meander through the picturesque countryside dotted with volcanoes, and learn about the mysterious Moai statues erected by the original Polynesian tribes who inhabited the island. Still today little is known about the statues or their creators. While circumnavigating the island on visits to the diverse Moai sites, you’ll have opportunities to relax on deserted, white-sand beaches, explore volcanic caves with petroglyphs and walk the rim of a seaside volcano.

IS IT FOR ME?

This trip, which is rated as ‘vigorous’ and combines trekking, kayaking and ice hiking, is ideal for those looking for big backcountry adventure. No prior ice hiking or kayaking experience is required, but participants should be in good physical condition and looking for a challenging Patagonian experience.

REFERENCES

Don’t take our word for how great our trips are. We’ll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travelers.

WHAT’S NEXT?

Ready for the trip of a lifetime? Signing up is easy. Call us at 1-877-616-8747 or email travel@knowmadadventures.com and reserve your spot. Or simply download our registration form from www.KnowmadAdventures.com/contact, fill it out, and send it back to us along with your trip deposit.

PLEASE REFER TO REGISTRATION FORM FOR TERMS & CONDITIONS