

# Torres del Paine National Park

Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO, 1978)

### KEY SERVICES

Station or Gatehouse

Tourist Information

Health Center (high season)

Police (high season)

Bus Stop

Restrooms

Radio

Phone

Hotel

Lodge

Camping area

Campsite

Restaurant/Cafeteria

Store

### ATTRACTIONS

Viewpoint

Waterfalls

Trekking

Trekking on ice

Horseback rides

Climbing

Kayak

Zodiac trips

Sports Fishing (outside the Park)

Sandbanks

Wetlands

Ranch

Private property

### TRANSPORT

Paved road

Dirt road

Nautical route

Paine Grande Circuit

W Circuit

Other trails

Pier

Vehicle bridge

Walking bridge

Hanging bridge

Passes

Former campsites

Airport

Distance between two points

International border

Park limits

### ALERTS

Authorized use of stoves

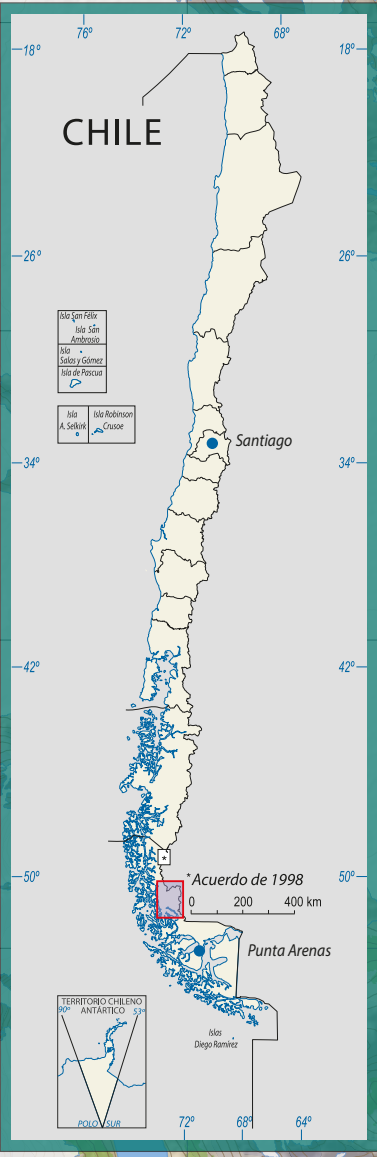
Mosquitoes

Landslide danger

Strong winds

River rise danger

Snow danger



### Reservation System

**CONAF:**  
CAMPSITE TORRES  
CAMPSITE ITALIANO  
CAMPSITE PINGO  
At the entrance gate of the Park, personally or at Conaf Offices.

**VERIFIC:**  
CAMPSITE REFUGIO DICKSON  
CAMPSITE REFUGIO PAINES GRANDE  
Through the page [www.verificpatagonia.com](http://www.verificpatagonia.com)

**FANTASTICO SUR:**  
CAMP SITE AND CAMPING LOS CUERNOS  
SHELTER TINK CENTRAL AND TINK MOUNT  
CAMPING AND COME FRANCIS  
SHELTER AND CAMPING CHILENO  
CAMPING SERAN  
Through the page [www.fantastico.com](http://www.fantastico.com)

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO [WWW.PATAGONIA-CHILE.COM](http://WWW.PATAGONIA-CHILE.COM)





Free Map


Mapa Gratuito

Servicio Nacional de Turismo | Chile

Región de Magallanes y Antártida Chilena

Torres del Paine

National Park Map



TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

The history of the Park shows an evolution in terms of area, name and management. In 1959, Grey Lake National Tourism Park was created, with an area of 4,332 hectares, and two years later, the Ministry of Lands and Colonization of the time extended its boundaries, expanding its area to 24,532 hectares, and changing its name to Torres del Paine National Tourism Park.

CONAF, the National Forestry Corporation, manages the park since 1975, and their permanent presence in the field works to this day, under the premise of conserving the Park's biodiversity. On April 1978, UNESCO declared it Biosphere Reserve, incorporating it to the territories that represent unique ecosystems in the world.

The Park currently has an area of 227, 298 hectares.

THE PARK BY THE NUMBERS

Attractions

Lakes	20
Ponds	17
Rivers	13
Falls (punchbowl – sp. Salto)	2
Waterfalls	2
Glaciers	8
Peaks	46
Birds	126
Mammals	25
Fish	6
Amphibians	3
Reptiles	6
Vegetation formations¹	4

Main Peaks

Paine Grande (main peak)	3.050
Cuerno Norte	2.400
Cuerno Principal	2.600
Cuerno Este	2.200
Torre Norte	2.248
Torre Central	2.800
Torre Sur	2.850
Monte Almirante Nieto	2.668

Altitude of Lakes

Grey	47
Nordenskjöld	65
Pehoe	34
Sarmiento²	75

1 Patagonian steppe, Pre-Andean shrubland, Andean desert and Magellanic subpolar forest.

2 It is the largest inside the park (86 km² – 53,4 mi²), with a depth of 312 m – 1,023 feet (Lake Toro is larger, but only part of it is inside the Park).

ALERTS

Dangerous Fauna (Puma)

The few puma attacks have been on people traveling alone, on bicycle or jogging, as pumas may consider them prey. If you are going to carry out any of these activities, do so in groups. If you glimpse a puma from a vehicle, do not get out to follow it; take pictures or record it from inside.

If you encounter a puma while out walking, remember:

- Most pumas will try to avoid the encounter and run off.
- Do not approach or look at it in the eyes.
- Make sure that children always remain at your side, and warn them about pumas, teaching them they are wild animals. Protect them by picking them up and carrying them, so they do not panic and run.
- Stop and back away slowly. Never run. The puma could mistake you for a possible prey and can reach you in seconds.
- Do all you can to make as much noise as possible, hit on metallic utensils, and pick up stones and sticks to throw at it.

Mosquitoes




From December to March, between Dickson and Los Perros campsites, the number of mosquitoes increases. Despite the discomfort and allergies their bites may cause, there is no risk of catching diseases. Ample use of repellent is recommended.


Didymo or Rock Snot



*Didymosphenia geminata* is an abundantly invasive, single-cell alga that affects ecosystems and trophic chains.

How to avoid its spread?

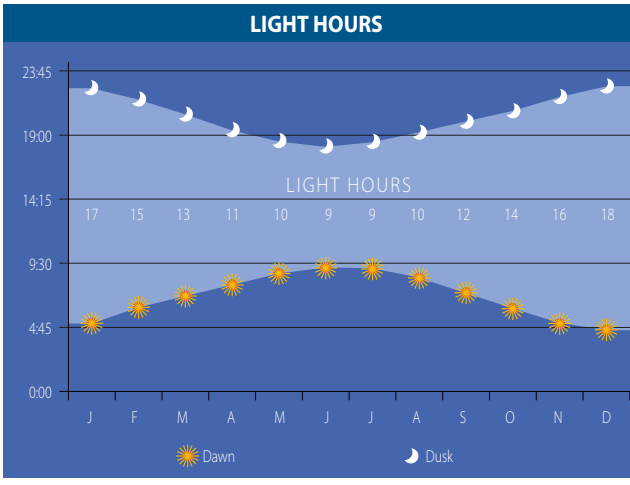
- Before leaving rivers, brooks and lakes, remove all algae from your implements, shoes, clothes, vehicles and boats. Avoid implements made with absorbent materials.
- Cleaning kit: a large bucket, clean water (10 liters), detergent (ideally biodegradable) or a disinfectant (such as domestic bleach; 500 ml), a brush and disposable bags. Immerse for 2 minutes.
- Dry environments kill didymo, but it can survive for months in humid environments.







LIGHT HOURS



PLACE NAMES

Almirante Nieto.

This mount was initially climbed by two Germans, and there are three versions for its name. It memorializes the person who helped them obtain the permit to climb the mountain; the man who helped them gain access to the region; or Admiral Francisco Nieto, who was the first to photograph this peak, in 1898.

Baguales.

Meaning *wild* or *untamed*, it is the Patagonian name given to feral or wild animals.

Dickson.

This name could make reference to British boundaries expert Bertram Dickson, who participated in a land dispute in 1902. Others believe it is inspired in the Baron of Dickson, who sponsored explorer Nordenskjöld's expedition in 1895-1896.

Grey.

The name makes reference to the color of its waters, during thawing season.

John Gardner.

Gardener was a British mountaineer that, between 1975-1976, made several climbs and located a pass between Dickson and Grey.

Lake Toro.

The Chilean naval expedition led by Juan Tomás Rodgers in 1879 killed a wild bull, giving rise to this name.

Los Perros.

Meaning *dogs*, it is a valley where packs of wild dogs used to live.

Nordenskjöld.

Swedish scientist that made study expeditions in the region.

Paine.

Meaning *blue lake* in Aónikenk, it shows a pink color that reflects on its surface at dawn.

Patagonia.

It is the name given to the native peoples, derived from the word *patagón* –or *big foot*– due to the large size of their footprints. It is currently believed, though, that the size of these tracks was generated by the many coverings worn to ward off the cold, and not to the actual size of their feet.

Pehoe.

From the Aónikenk expression meaning *hidden place*.

Pingo.

This Inuit word makes reference to the typical periglacial *hills*, and it is also the name given to horses in Patagonia.

Sarmiento.

Originally named after Argentine president Domingo Sarmiento, its designation changed to Sarmiento Gamboa, after the Spanish sailor that explored the interior channels, in 1580.

Serrano.

named after Ramón Serrano Montaner, a seaman that explored the area in 1889.

Tyndall.

possibly named after the Irish physicist John Tyndall (Tyndall effect).

Valle del Francés.

Meaning the *Frenchman's valley*, it was named after Adrián Bader, a French citizen that settled the area.

Ascencio Valley.

It was named after the legend of Ascencio Brunel, a poacher who had one of his hiding spots in the valley.

General

- Request the assistance of Sematur and Conaf personnel at least a day in advance, to plan your trip with a map.
- Carry id and sign the registry when entering and leaving the park.
- Climbs require Conaf permits.
- Make reservations for lodges and campsites.
- Respect routes and posted signs. Do not walk outside of the trails.
- Do not over-exert yourself. Being tired increases the risk of accident.
- In the park, there is practically no internet or phone signal.
- Access to electrical power is scarce.
- Take cash and bank cards. There are no automatic tellers (ATM).
- It is best to begin hikes before 9 AM.
- Flashlights may be unnecessary in the summertime (see graph).
- Smoking in trails and lodges is prohibited. There are authorized areas, with ashtrays, outside the lodges.
- Carry a 1-liter water bottle. There are many fresh water springs along the Paine Grande route.
- Carry a first-aid kit.

Equipment

- Tent: a wind-resistant tent is recommended from mid-mountain onward.
- Sleeping bags: Between -5 and -10 °C (23 and 14 °F) is enough, during the summertime.
- Mat: Prefer self-inflatable.
- Backpack: If you stay at the lodges, a 30-liter pack is enough. If you are camping, a 60-liter pack is recommended. Carry a rain-cover for your pack.
- Carry a large plastic bag inside the pack to protect your things from water.
- Trekking poles.

Clothes


- A hat for the cold, that covers the ears. Sunblock. Sun hat, scarf and sunglasses.
- Three layers (T-shirt, fleece and a water-proof windbreaker with hood), all dry-fit. Normally, in summer, temperatures are not too low, and three layers are enough. For an extra cover, bring a synthetic jacket; wet feathers do not work.
- First-layer pants (to sleep and if it gets cold) and trekking pants, preferably with zippered legs to cross rivers, as well as water-proof cover-pants for when it rains, which is common.
- Carry extra first-layers.
- Trekking or mountain shoes. Sneakers for resting and or as a change of shoes. Sandals with straps, to go across rivers and for resting. Some lodges do not allow wearing shoes inside. It is recommended to test new shoes beforehand.

Food

- A hearty breakfast.
- During treks, consume high-calorie foods.
- Supply points along the Paine Grande circuit: Hostería Las Torres, and at campsites Serón, Dickson, Los Perros, Grey and Paine Grande. Also, at the Pudeto Coffeehouse and the Store at Camping Pehoe.
- Given that during the high season, availability decreases, carrying food is recommended, particularly dehydrated items.

DO NOT DUMP GARBAGE:

Do not leave trash or contaminants behind. Return with all the trash you produce.




GEOLOGY and GEOMORPHOLOGY

The breathtaking landscape that characterizes Torres del Paine National Park is the product of a series of erosive processes and geological formations that took place approximately 12 million years ago.

With an area of 400 km² (248.5 mi²), Paine Massif is an irregular group of mountains made up of sedimentary and granitic rocks, as evidenced by their colors, a combination of light grey (granite) and black (sediment).

Geological phenomena, like the rise of the Paine Mountain Range, along with the erosive processes derived from the advance and retreat of glaciers, sculpted the wonderful panorama that characterizes Torres del Paine, where the age of rocks varies from 60 to 150 million years, in a diverse landscape in terms of altitudes, shapes and colors.

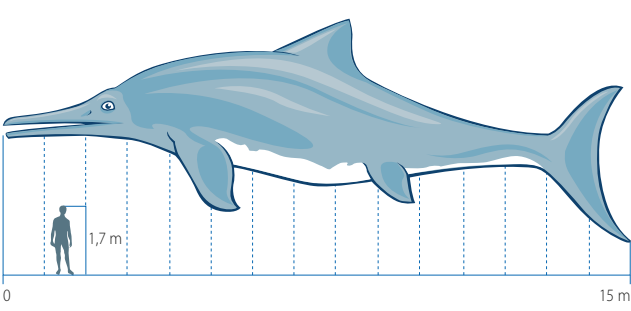


ICHTHYOSAURUS

The origin of the ichthyosaur (Ichthyosauria, gr. 'fish lizards') dates back to the Early Triassic period (250 million years ago), while its extinction took place during the Cretaceous period (90 million years ago).

The ichthyosaur found in Torres del Paine are the southernmost on the planet.

The first ichthyosaur fossils found in Torres del Paine were recorded in 1997 (in the area surrounding Tyndall Glacier), and to date, more than 34 specimens have been found. These fossils vary in length between 1 and 5 meters (approximately between 3' and 16'), but their original size could reach 15 meters (approximately 50').



DO NOT FEED THE LOCAL FAUNA

Any animal that is not self-sustaining is destined to perish. Feeding the wildlife is counterproductive to their survival and exposes them to new dangers and threatening situations.

WILDLIFE

Barba de Viejo (*Old Man's Beard* – *Usnea barabata*).

A green-grey lichen that grows in the bark and branches of trees.

Calafate (*Magellan Barberry* – *Berberis microphylla*).

It has purple edible sweet-and-sour berries that are used to make preserves and liqueurs.

Coigüe (*Magellan's Beech* – *Nothofagus betuloides*).

These trees reach 25 meters in height. They are colonizers and can be found close to the glaciers.

Dihuehue (*Cytaria hookeri*).

This yellow spherical mushroom is edible and grows in the branches of trees of the Nothofagus family.

Lenga (*Lenga Beech* – *Nothofagus pumilio*).


Lengas can reach up to 30 meters in height. Their wood is used in construction, as it is quite durable.

Orchid (*Chloris chilensis*).

There are 7 species in the Park; the most common one is *Codonorchis lessonii*, better known as *palomita* or little dove.

Ñirre (Antarctic Beech – *Nothofagus antarctica*).

Especially conditioned to weather low temperatures and strong inclines, it is the tree species found at the highest altitudes.



CoigüeLengaÑirre

Guanacos (*Lama guanicoe*).

Camelids native to South America, they are usually found in large family groups. They are abundant in the park.

Huemul (*South Andean Deer* – *Hippocamelus bisulcus*).

This deer, featured in the Chilean Coat of Arms, is also on the list of endangered species, and their conservation is a priority.

Nándú (*Darwin's Rheas* – *Patagonemia pennata*).

Similar to ostriches and emus, these birds do not fly, but reach high speeds when running.

Puma (*Felis concolor*).

Hard to spot, their main sources of food are deer and camelids. Male specimens weigh up to 90 kg.

Zorro culpeo (*Andean Fox* – *Lycalopex culpaeus*).

The largest foxes in Chile, culpeos weigh up to 12 kg.

Zorro gris or Chilla (*South American Grey Fox* – *Lycalopex griseus*).

Yellowish-grey in color, they weigh up to 4 kg.

Carpintero magallánico (*Magellanic Woodpecker* – *Campophilus magellanicus*).

This is one of the largest woodpeckers in the world, with a black body and characteristic red head.

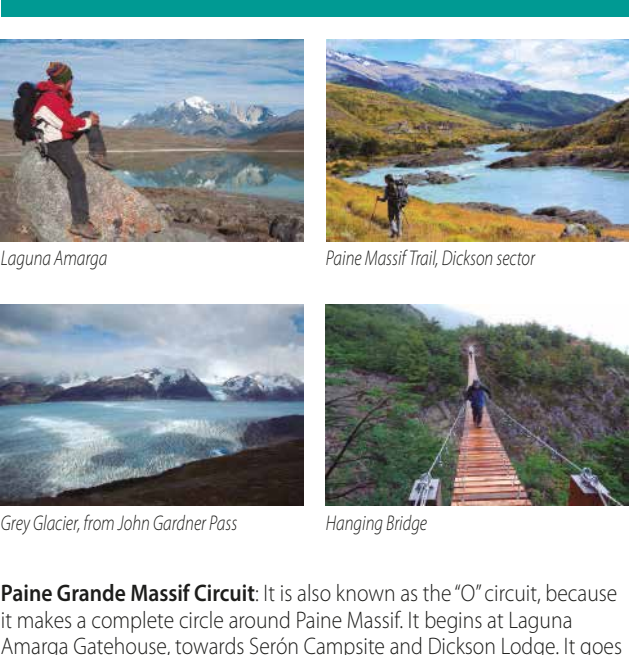
Cóndor (*Vultur gryphus*).

The emblem of the Andes Mountain Range, it flies up to an altitude of 4,500 meters and its wingspan can reach 3.3 meters.

Chilean flamingo (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*).

With grey legs and a half-black, half-white beak, they lay one egg at a time.

CIRCUITS and TRAILS



E5 Dickson

G5 Coirón

H5 Serón

G6 Japonés

H6 Las Torres

H7 Chileno

F7 Británico

F8 Francés

G8 Los Cuernos

F10 Paine Grande

D8 Grey

E6 Los Perros

D7 Paso

Paine Grande Massif Circuit.

It is also known as the "O" circuit, because it makes a complete circle around Paine Massif. It begins at Laguna Amarga Gatehouse, towards Serón Campsite and Dickson Lodge. It goes through large forests, arriving at Los Perros Campsite, an ideal rest area, before initiating the ascent towards John Gardner Pass, and then to Grey station, Pass and Lodge, and the trail that borders the glacier with the same name.

Following, the tour is completed on the W circuit, continuing towards Paine Grande Lodge. After taking the left road at the fork, one can find the Frenchman's Valley, and then climb up to the British Campsite. The final stretch goes by Los Cuernos Lodge, ending in Hostería Las Torres and returning to Laguna Amarga Gatehouse.

The circuit is 90.5 km (56.2 mi) long, which can be covered in an average 7- to 10 days, depending on preparations, the trekkers' characteristics and weather conditions. The difficulty level is medium in most of the trails, and high, between Los Perros and El Paso.

W and PAINE GRANDE CIRCUIT TRAILS

Trail segments	Km	Hrs.	Closing	Difficulty
Paine Grande – Italiano	7,6	2½	1830	Low
Italiano – British Viewpoint	6,5	3½	1200	Medium
Italiano – Los Cuernos Lodge	5,5	2½	1830	Medium
Los Cuernos Lodge – Las Torres Hotel	11,0	4½	1700	Medium
Las Torres Hotel – Chileno	5,0	2	1900	Medium
Chileno – Torres	3,2	1	1800	Medium
Torres – Las Torres Base Viewpoint	1,0	1	1900	High
Las Torres Hotel – Serón	9,0	4	1700	Medium
Serón – Dickson Lodge	18,0	9	1500	Medium
Dickson Lodge – Los Perros	10,0	4½	1700	Medium
Los Perros – Paso	7,5	6	1500	High
Paso – Grey Lodge	7,0	5	1500	Medium
Grey Lodge – Paine Grande Lodge	11,0	4	1830	Medium

USEFUL DATA and SERVICES

National Forestry Corporation (CONAF)

- Torres del Paine National Park Administration (+56 61) 269 1931 – 236 0496 [www.parquetorresdelpaine.cl](http://www.parquetorresdelpaine.cl)
- Puerto Natales Manuel Baquedano Nº 847 (+56 61) 241 1438
- Punta Arenas Av. Bulnes Nº 0309, 4º piso (+56 61) 223 8554

Carabineros de Chile

Chilean Police – 24 hours

(+56 61) 276 1139 – (+56 61) 276 1144

Radio frequency (VHF)


143.800 Mhz

National Tourism Service (SERNATUR)


- Punta Arenas Regional Office for Tourist Information Lautaro Navarro Nº 999 (+56 61) 224 8790 – 222 5385 [informagallanes@sernatur.cl](mailto:informagallanes@sernatur.cl)
- Puerto Natales Tourist Information Office Pedro Montt Nº 019 (+56 61) 241 1125 [informagallanes@sernatur.cl](mailto:informagallanes@sernatur.cl)
- Puerto Natales Municipal Tourism Office Manuel Bulnes Nº 285, Puerto Natales (+56 61) 220 9548
- Torres del Paine Municipal Tourism Office Avda. Bernardo O'Higgins s/n, Villa Cerro Castillo (+56 61) 241 1411 – 241 3063

Firefighters


- Company Nº 2 (Puerto Natales) (+56 61) 241 1108 – 241 5781 Manuel Bulnes Nº 474
- Company Nº 3 (Cerro Castillo) El Pasajero s/n, Villa Cerro Castillo [www.cuartedesdebombos.cl](http://www.cuartedesdebombos.cl)



Cóndor (*Vultur gryphus*)



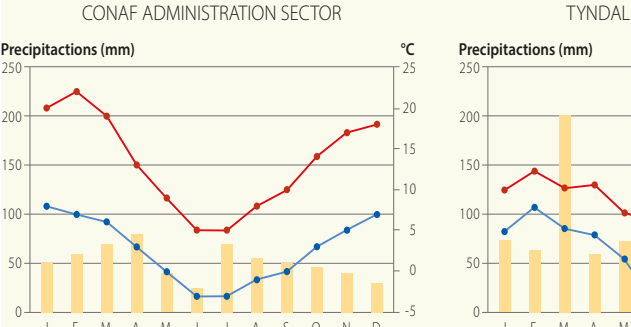
Chilean flamingo (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*)



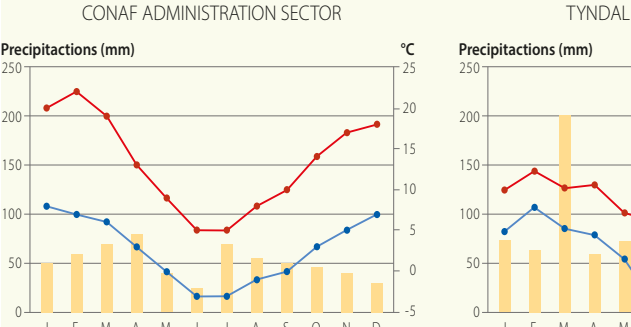
Magellanic Woodpecker (*Campophilus magellanicus*)

PRECIPITATIONS² and TEMPERATURES

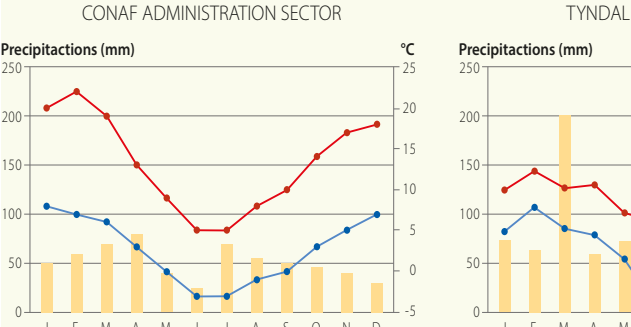
CONAF ADMINISTRATION SECTOR



TYNDALL GLACIER SECTOR



DICKSON LAKE SECTOR



Map was produced by Transversal Ltda. during 2015.

Sernatur Punta Arenas and Puerto Natales acted as technical counterpart for the project. Transversal acknowledges their collaboration and that of the Conaf PNP team and the Regional Office.

Direction and SIG Design Local Guide Journalist GIS Research Illustrator Nicolás Martelli Montes Osvaldo Aguilo Mello Alvaro Jaime Casanovas Norberto Parra Hidalgo Catalina Escudero Muñoz Fernanda Poblete Arenillas Carla Infanta Gabor

Torres del Paine National Park Access Points

From Puerto Natales, there are two options to gain access into the Park. The first is on Route 9, traveling 107 km (66.5 mi) to access the gatehouses to Laguna Amarga and Sarmiento. The second is on the new Y-290 road: a dirt road that extends 86 km (53 mi), with a 13-km (8 mi) paved section, arriving at the Serrano gatehouse.

Visitors can also access the park via Zodiac boats on the Serrano River. These expeditions begin onboard a ship from Puerto Natales, sailing up Última Esperanza Fjord, visiting glaciers Balmaceda and Serrano.

Buses

To the Park

- Puerto Natales Bus Terminal Av. España 1455 (+56 61) 241 0951

Departures: 7:30 and 14:30 hrs.

From the Park.

- Administrative Office Departures: 13:00 and 18:30 hrs.
- Pudeto Coffeehouse Departures: 13:30 and 19:00 hrs.
- Laguna Amarga Gatehouse Departures: 14:30 and 19:45 hrs.

Activities (available from October to April)

- Catamaran crossing (+56 61) 241 1380 Los Amieros Nº 1517, Puerto Natales [info@hielopatagonicos.cl](mailto:info@hielopatagonicos.cl) [www.hielopatagonicos.cl](http://www.hielopatagonicos.cl)
- Sailing to Grey Glacier Grey Lake Tourism / Grey Lake Hotel (+56 61) 271 2129 – 271 2190 (and the same number ending in 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) [navegacion@turismolagogyrey.com](mailto:navegacion@turismolagogyrey.com) [www.turismolagogyrey.com](http://www.turismolagogyrey.com)

There is also a wide array of recreational activities, such as horseback, and kayak excursions, guided tours, walks on the ice and climbs. To contract these services, consult directly with tourist operators at the Park.

OTHER CIRCUITS IN THE PARK

Trail sections

	Km	Hrs.	Difficulty
Las Carretas (Adm. – Paine Grande Lodge)	17,0	5	Medium
Laguna Verde Station (Est. Lazo) – El Toro Viewpoint	11,0	3	Low
El Toro Viewpoint – Weber Bridge	2,5	1	Medium
Grey Lake Station – Pingo	3,0	¾	Low
Pingo – Zapata	10,0	5	Medium
Zapata – Zapata Viewpoint	3,0	1½	Medium
Salto Grande – Los Cuernos Viewpoint	2,3	1	Low
Camping Lago Pehoe – Cóndor Viewpoint	1,0	¾	Low
Laguna Azul – Laguna Cebolla – Paine Lake	15,5	6	Low

Closing times apply during summer. Park rangers have the right to restrict traffic, according to weather conditions.

Cartography sources:

Military Geographic Institute (IGM), General Water Directorate (DGA); MOP road maps, SRTM (reliefs), the municipalities of Torres del Paine and Puerto Natales; Conaf, Sernatur, Punta Arenas and Puerto Natales; Quaternary Studies Center, Fuego-Patagonia and Antártica (CEQUA), and pre-existing maps. **Photography:** Sernatur, Alvaro Jaime and Transversal archives.

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Servicio Nacional de Turismo Punta Arenas Monseñor José Fagnano Nº 643 [informagallanes@sernatur.cl](mailto:informagallanes@sernatur.cl) (+56 61) 224 8790 - 222 5385 (+56 61) 224 1330

Puerto Natales Pedro Montt Nº 19 [infonatales@sernatur.cl](mailto:infonatales@sernatur.cl) (+56 61) 241 2125

