

Patagonia, Chile



Time Frame: 6 days + 2 travel days

Destinations: Santiago, Puerto Natales, & Torres del Paine, Chile

Travel Day/Day 1

Arrive in Santiago, Chile

Take a red-eye flight to **Santiago, Chile** and arrive early in the morning. Get a shuttle to the **Hilton Garden Inn Santiago Airport** and store your luggage.

Uber to **downtown Santiago** for the day:

- Lunch at La Barrita Sanguchera (get the lomo saltado sandwich)
- Take the **Tours 4 Tips** free walking tour at 3pm (3 hrs, tip \$20/person & have change for metro)
 - Starts at Museo Bellas Artes, ends at Barrio Lastarria
 - Visits: Plaza de Armas, Cathedral de Santiago, La Moneda Palace, GAM Cultural Center
- Then go to Santa Lucia Hill for city views & Mercado Central food market
- Dinner at Chipe Libre

DAY 2

Puerto Natales, Chile

Check out and take the hotel shuttle to the airport for an early flight to **Puerto Natales, Chile**.

Pick up your rental car at the Puerto Natales airport from LYS/Europcar.

Drive into Puerto Natales and stop at a Unimarc grocery store (bring your own bag) for hiking snacks and breakfast for tomorrow. Pick up your trekking pole rentals from Rental Natales.

Lunch at Patagonia'food (try the completo xl)

Walk along the **Coastal Trail Walk (La Costanera)**: Monumento al Viento, Muelle Historico & Viejo, La Mano.

Check in to your airbnb & find a spot for dinner.

DAY 3

Torres del Paine National Park, Chile

Check out early and start the 2 hour drive to **Torres del Paine (TDP) National Park**:

- Stop at **Lago Torro & Mirador Grey** overlooks (-51.249, -72.887)
- Stop at the TDP park entrance (-51.2174897, -72.9707428) & show your 3-day park entry pass
 - Buy online & download pdf pass as there is no cell service

Grey Glacier Navigation Boat Tour: 9am check in for 10am departure, buy online & download ticket

- 3 hr tour (includes pisco sour) from Hotel Lago Grey (-51.124, -73.128)
- Check in at main hotel lobby where restaurant is (right turn at Lago Grey sign)
- Drive to pingo parking (left turn at sign) then 30-45 min walk to board
- Lunch at Hotel Lago Grey Restaurant

Check in to the **Morrena Lodge** at 3pm (3 nights) & have dinner here

- *Free parking, welcome sangria, breakfast included, must reserve a time for dinner day-of & pre-order to-go lunches the day before*

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DAY 4

Torres del Paine National Park

Have breakfast at Morrena Lodge.

Road trip to **TDP viewpoints**:

- **Salto Chico Falls**: short boardwalk trail (-51.1157, -72.9902)
- **Mirador Condor**: 1.5 miles, 1 hour hike out & back, difficult (-51.095, -72.983)
- **Mirador Nordenskjold**: drive up viewpoint (or 1.5 hr hike) (51.0412, -72.9096)
- **Mirador Cuernos & Salto Grande Waterfall**: 5.7 miles, 2.5 hour hike out & back from Ruta Y-150 (51.0651, -72.9973)

Packed lunch from Morrena Lodge.

Dinner at Morrena Lodge & walk around Rio Serrano.

DAY 5

Torres del Paine National Park

Have breakfast at Morrena Lodge.

Base Towers Trek/Viewpoint (Mirador Las Torres): parking lot (-50.973, -72.874)

- 12.5 miles, 4,533 ft of elevation gain, 6-9 hours total
- Refugio (2.8 miles/1 hr 45 min in): has bathrooms (500 pesos), water, some food
- Ranger station (4.8 miles/3 hr in): has free bathrooms (bring TP), water → they close the last 1.2 miles of the trail at 3pm here!
- **Pack**: Layers, puffer, raincoat, trekking poles, gloves, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, blister tape, packed lunch/snacks, water bottle, electrolytes, energy chews, toilet paper

Dinner at Morrena Lodge.

Day 6

Puerto Natales

Breakfast at Morrena Lodge & check out.

Drive back to Puerto Natales, have lunch here & return trekking poles to Rental Natales.

Galope Austral horseback riding: 2.5 hour ride at 3pm (Kilometer 36, road 9)

Check in to Best Western Patagonia for 1 night at 3pm & have dinner in Puerto Natales.

Travel Day

Travel Back Home

Have breakfast at the hotel & check out.

Return rental car at the Puerto Natales airport.

Hop on your flight home!

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Tips

Currency	Chilean Peso (not needed, cards accepted everywhere)
Apps	Download Alltrails, Google Maps, Google Translate, & copies of TDP entry pass & reservations
Essentials	Trekking poles, good hiking boots, lots of layers for strong winds, rain coat, puffer jacket, gloves, beanie, hat, sunscreen
Good to Know	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <u>Customs</u>: Will be given PDI paper at immigration that you must return when leaving country- <u>Car rentals</u>: LYS is only company with airport pickup & English help desk, other companies (Magallanes, VHM) you need to translate quotes & taxi to office- Gas stations have attendants here- <u>Tipping</u>: 10% at restaurants- <u>Chilean VAT tax</u>: 19% tax, foreigners can be exempt from hotel VAT by paying with a USD/intl card & NOT converting, have passport & PDI paper at check ins- <u>When in TDP NP</u>: No gas stations or grocery stores, only restaurants are at resorts and most will require reservations, need 4WD and tire spray for very rocky roads, no cell service in most areas- <u>Punta Arenas</u>: Has cheaper flights & hotels but much further from TDP, would advise against if shorter on time

Recs

Stay	Morrena Lodge in TDP, Best Western Patagonia in PN
Eat	Empanadas, humitas (Chilean tamales), pastel de choclo (like a corn shepherd's pie), pastel de jaiba (with crab), ceviche, completo xl (salchicha sausage + tomato + avocado + mayo + the best bread), chorillana (fries w/ beef, egg, onion; like poutine), porotos granados (vegetable stew), pisco sour (grape brandy + but no egg whites in Chilean version), calafate sour (with local calafate berry) Bottled water options are "with gas" or "without gas" (sparkling or still)
Other Things To Do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- PN: Mylodon Cave, day trip to Balmaceda & Serrano Glaciers- TDP NP: Laguna Armaga viewpoint, Laguna Azul hike, French Valley hike, Lake Sarmiento hike, Mirador Ferrier hike, kayak Rio Grey