

## **Torres del Paine, (Nature and Voluntary Work)**

### **Description**

The national park Torres del Paine is the most important park of Chile with thousands of visits during the year. His extraordinary granite mountain, glacier, lakes and steppe are unique, accompanied by a magnificent fauna, from Pumas to foxes, and dozens of different birds. According to National Geographics, Torres del Paine is the fifth most beautiful place in the world and in the year 2013 with more than five million votes, "Virtual Tourist" designates this park as the eighth wonder of the world.

Besides to know this spectacular nature sanctuary, walking on their centuries-old ice, explore lakes and enjoy its trails and viewpoints, we will make a work of restoration and improvement of trails in one of the most impressive valleys of the Park. This work will be guided and assisted by CONAF Park Rangers

### **Philosophies to be applied during this program:**

**Learning Life Skills:** students will participate in activities that will allow them to dominate a new skill or gain greater experience in one who have practiced before.

**Leadership, Responsibility, Collaboration & Team Work:** Students will develop responsibility for their actions and leadership skills in dynamic activities, learning to defend their own ideas, to apply an empathic listen, to implement tactics for the resolution of individual and group conflicts, and learn to take risks in appropriate scenarios.

**Environmental Education:** Students will gain a bigger understanding of how our decisions affect the environment. Encourage the appreciation for protection and conservation of the environment, and impulse students to modify their habits and to be more Eco Friendly.

**Cultural Awareness:** Students are exposed in a different culture than their own, learning from the experience to watch, live and appreciate their tradition, which leads them to reappraise their own culture, and obtain new perspectives about their immediate environment, Chile as country and culture, and to the world that surrounds us, becoming in global citizens who appreciate and defend the value of the cultural diversity.

### **Schedule**

#### **Day 1.**

Arrival to Punta Arenas airport on a flight before noon, then land transfer to Puerto Natales, lunch and organization of the expedition, logistics of power equipment.

**Educational component: Students will learn techniques of land logistics, dietary organization and camp equipment; during all the activity they will be responsible for cooking and organizing their food.**

#### **Day 2.**

Departure from Puerto Natales to Torres del Paine National Park by income Serrano, then we will continue to Lake Grey to take the ferry which cross the Lake to reach the area of camp Refugee Grey, where we will settle for recognition of glaciology by making a walk on ice over the glacier Grey, to which we will be divided into two groups, some will take kayaks and other boats, to go back to camp groups will change transport.

**Educational component: Students will learn about ecosystems, geology and glaciology, by initiating the context of the expedition, connecting the environment with natural phenomenon that will be studied in the next few days. They will also learn basic kayaking techniques to move short distances.**

#### **Day 3.**

To optimize the time, breakfast will be served in the same Grey refugee since it will be a strong walk day recognizing the habitat of the place destined for the refuge Paine Grande where having lunch continuing to the end of the day that will be the Italian camp that situates just beneath the impressive Cerro Paine Grande

**Educational component: Students will learn about ecosystems and biodiversity of the glaciers and Alpine surroundings, as also the transition of temperate forest to the Patagonian steppe.**

#### **Day 4**

From the Italian camp where restoration work and improvement of the trail that follows penetrating through the Valle del Frances until the high viewpoints, here the group will be divided into two groups, starting from camp Italiano up first and the second group start viewpoints high down to the Italian camp. This day will be great physical work using tools such as shovels, rakes, hammers and nails, implementing the Park Ranger-guided techniques.

**Educational component: Students will learn about restoration of paths, the effect of ground erosion, political techniques of minimal environmental impact (LNT), and usability of the natural areas managed by the Government to scrimp on the use and effect of visitors in pristine areas.**

#### **Day 5.**

This fifth day we will leave the Italian camp to return to the Paine Grande refugee and take the ferry to cross to Lake Pehoé to Pudeto, where we will take a bus that goes directly to the camping area Hostería Las Torres

**Educational component: Students will learn about the ASPE (Areas wild protected State), management in Chile, his present and future. As well as private and local lifestyle initiatives.**

#### **Day 6.**

This day will be the icing on the cake, we leave early and very lightweight to climb to the viewpoint of Torres del Paine, getting to know one of the most beautiful and visited valleys of the National Park, at noon we will return to the camp to go back to our hostel in Puerto Natales and evaluate the expedition.

**Educational component: Students will learn about techniques of mid-mountain, care of companion in difficult situations, self-confidence and sense of achievement thanks to the team work and motivation**



**Day 7.**

After breakfast we return from Puerto Natales directly to Punta Arenas airport or city depending on the scheduled time of the return flight to Santiago

**Educational component: Students will learn about local economies related to activities of tourism of nature**