



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Chile - Puerto Natales (Torres del Paine)

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Santiago de Chile
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish (kind of)
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 48,974
- ✓ **Population:** ± 19,000
- ✓ **Currency:** Chilean Peso's (CLP/\$)
- ✓ **Country code:** + 56 (61)
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 133 (police), 132 (firemen), 131 (ambulance)
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / DTP / Yellow fever



History Recap Over 1 Drink

800: Agricultural indigenous communities. 1535: Successful Araucanian resistance against Spanish. '41: Valdivia begins Spanish conquest, Santiago founded → Araucanians kill Valdivia. 1814: Spanish regain control → '17: defeated by Army of Andes led by San Martín & O'Higgins → '18: Independent with O'Higgins as leader. '23-30: Civil War between liberal federalists & conservative centralists (last wins). 18th century: Landowners economic/political force → changes with Pres Montt. 1879-84: War of Pacific with Peru/Bolivia, expanded territory 1/3 northward. European immigration, large-scale mining. 1927: Start dictatorship Gen. Ibanez (seized power) → '52: elected pres. Growth US political influence. '64: Pres Montalva: social reforms. '70: Allende president (Marxist): weapons from Cuba, US opposition Nixon. Economic crisis. '73: CIA-sponsored military coup: Allende suicide. New totalitarian regime: Pinochet → Caravan of Death: over 3000 (leftish) Chileans murdered, 29000 imprisoned & tortured, 30000 exiled. 89: Pres Aylwin, Pinochet remains commander-in-chief army. '94: Pres Frei. 2000: Pres Lagos → '04: Divorce law (despite Church's opposition). '06: Pres Bachelet (first female). Free-trade China. Difficult relations with Peru. '10: Pres Pinera. 8.8 earthquake.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Low season												

Altitude: 20m (Puerto Natales). Climate: Subpolar Oceanic (Cfc), most wind: summer. Unpredictable weather!

Bucket List For Free

☺ Stroll along the pretty waterfront of Puerto Natales with its Monumento al Viento.

Prepare to pay for this...

👍 Nature: [La Cueva del Milodon](#), Ultima Esperanza channel [boat trip](#).

👍 Other: Mirador Cerro Dorotea, Museo Puerto Bories, [Museo Histórico](#).

👍 [Torres del Paine](#)... it's going to be expensive, whatever you do. Tours are unnecessary. Camping & accommodation has to be reserved in advance. Treks:

- W: Torres – Británico – Paine Grande – Glaciar Grey (3-5 days).
- O: Full round, Paine Big Circuit (7-9 days).
- Q: Full round + hike via Pehoe to Torres Lake.
- Other: Valle Bader, Valle Silencio, Valle Pingo, Sierra Baguales.

👍 Sports: Kayaking, canoeing, biking, climbing, sailing.

Budget Bites

- ⌘ Supermarket: Unimarc, Don Bosco and smaller kiosks.
- ⌘ Streetfood & local eateries food: Sopaipillas, completo, italiano, churrasco or empanada (that are huge in Chile).
- ⌘ Go vegan: Vegetarian → [El Living](#) (Arturo Prat 156), [Amerindia](#) (Barros Arana 135)

Mama Said

- ☠ Do NOT waste money by booking a tour for Torres del Paine, it's impossible to get lost with the clearly indicated paths.
- ☠ When camping in Torres del Paine, hang your food in a bag in the tree. Rats are a real problem and eat their way through your backpack and tent (and walk over you when you sleep).
- ☠ Pack for ALL weather types and use waterproof clothes and shoes. You can have 30-degrees sun and a snow storm in 1 day. Prepare for a lot of wind... a lot. Always use sunscreen.
- ☠ Pack enough food and a bit more, but keep it as light as possible. The river water in Torres del Paine is drinkable and your only source.
- ☠ Try to be responsible, don't litter in the park or clean your dirty clothes and plates in the river. Cook only in designated areas or risk a big fine.
- ☠ Don't forget camping equipment, daypack, dryback, toilet paper, flipflops, lighter, a headlamp, head, sunglasses, towel, hair ties, coll, sleeping mask, fleece, gloves, duct tape, painkillers, bandaids, book, plastic bags, mosquito spray, cooking gear (incl. spoon) & propane (people leave leftovers at campsites and hostels). Bring cash money, no ATMs. Find good packing lists [here](#) & [here](#).
- ☠ **Recommended route for W:** Day 1: Take ferry from Pudeto, pitch tent at Paine Grande & go with a [daypack](#) up and down to Glaciar Grey. Day 2: Hike to campsite Italiano, pitch tent, hang food in the tree and go with a daypack up and down Mirador Britanico. Day 3: Get up early, hike to campsite Torres (long). Day 4: Check sunrise at Torres with a daypack, go back to campsite and hike back to Laguna Amarga entrance. Done.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ There are 4 free campsites in Torres del Paine: Italiano, Torres, Paso & Las Carretas → reserve [here](#)! Relatively cheap campsites are Las Torres Hotel (Central), El Francés, Serón, Grey, Dickson, Vértice. Reservation needed (online) or via the offices of [Vertice Patagonia](#) and [Fantastico Sur](#). In summer: book far ahead!
- ❖ In Puerto Natales: Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Or check [workaway](#).

Festivals

- ⚙ Festival de Cine de la Patagonia (film): Feb.
- ⚙ Ultra Fiord (fjord running): Apr.
- ⚙ Festival de Artes Cielos del Infinito (theatre): Oct-Nov.

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ Base Camp, Baquedano 731.
- ◆ Baguales, Bories 430.
- ◆ Porque no te callas, Magallanes 247.

Free-Riding?

- Everything within the centre of Puerto Natales is walkable.
- Biking is a good way to explore the environment, but you can't do the hiking trails with a bicycle.
- You need a bus to go to Torres del Paine, it connects with the ferry. The bus terminal serves surrounding locations and is located at Santiago Bueras & Avenida España (1455).
- Taxis are very expensive. Negotiate prices up front.
- In order to go from Pudeto to Paine Grande you need to take an outrageously expensive ferry. You can pay on the boat. It's unavoidable if you do the W-trek.
- Hitch-hiking is possible and rather easy. But of course, there's always a certain risk. If you hitch-hike to Torres del Paine you might miss your ferry connection.

Tip: Download the free Triposo Chile app for an offline map, offline guide & more. Load Google Maps when you have wifi and leave it open, you will still be able to use it offline.

The Earth Becomes My
Throne