

Chile

Torres del Paine



Declaration date: 1978

Surface area: 184,414 ha

Administrative division: Magallanes and Chilean Antarctic Regions, Province of Ultima Esperanza

Human activities:

The Biosphere Reserve has a variety of tourist services, offered by 15 private concessions mainly geared to lodging, restaurants, transport and recreation. It receives approximately 115,000 visitors per year.

Protection classification:

Torres del Paine National Park

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Ecological characteristics:

The Biosphere Reserve has four well defined ecological zones:

- Pre-Andean scrubland: present in the plains and plateaux-like formations, the species found here are mostly adapted to economizing water due to their exposure to strong winds.
- Deciduous Magellan Forest: all the tree and shrub communities in this community belong to this ecosystem, where Lenga (*Nothofagus pumilio*) is the dominating species.
- Patagonian Steppe: to be found in the plains and plateaux-like formations, with a semi-arid cold climate and rainfall of up to 400 mm per year. Here perennial medium to low height grass communities are to be found, growing in ditch-like depressions.
- Andean desert: corresponding to a zone where vegetation only develops up to a height of 1,50 m, with cover ranging from 30% to 0% due to the extreme climatic conditions and the altitude. The association of *Mulinetum espinosum* (pre-Andean scrub) should be noted. Part of the flora is exclusive to the Reserve and the Province of Ultima Esperanza, with *Adesmia campestris* as a rare and exclusive species.

