

travel **A**rt
C H I L E



CHILE MANUAL



the art of travel





SYMBOLS LEGEND

 Half day

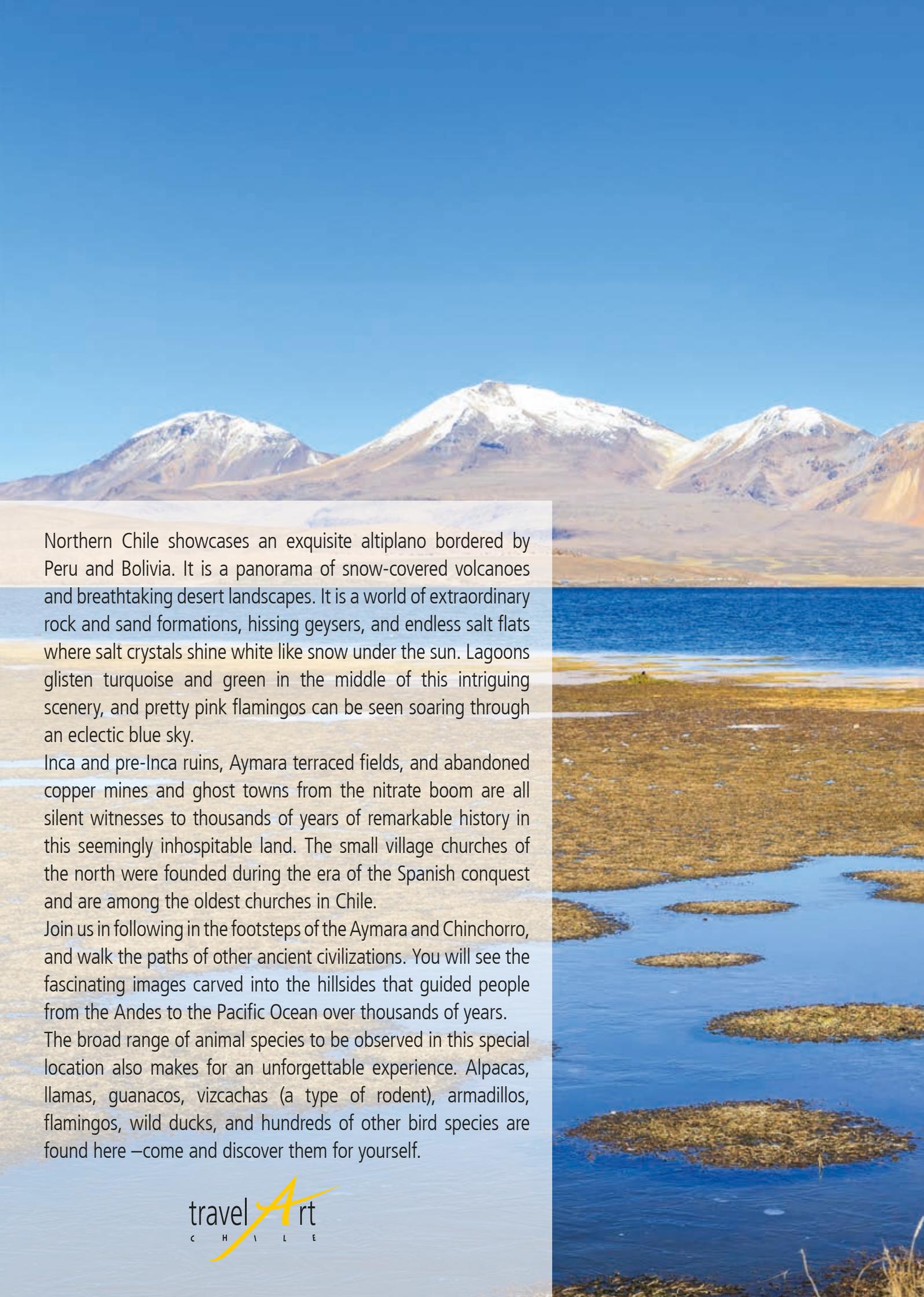
 Full day

 Night tours

 Add-on

INDEX

ALTIPLANO	4
SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA	10
THE SMALL NORTH	28
CENTRAL REGION	36
• Santiago de Chile	38
• Around Santiago	50
• Valparaíso	56
EASTER ISLAND	62
LAKE DISTRICT	70
• Northern Lake District	72
• Southern Lake District	78
• Chiloé Island	90
CARRETERA AUSTRAL	96
PATAGONIA	102
• Punta Arenas	104
• Puerto Natales	114
• Torres del Paine	120
VINEYARDS	128
SELF DRIVES	138
CRUISES	154
LEGAL NOTICE	165



Northern Chile showcases an exquisite altiplano bordered by Peru and Bolivia. It is a panorama of snow-covered volcanoes and breathtaking desert landscapes. It is a world of extraordinary rock and sand formations, hissing geysers, and endless salt flats where salt crystals shine white like snow under the sun. Lagoons glisten turquoise and green in the middle of this intriguing scenery, and pretty pink flamingos can be seen soaring through an eclectic blue sky.

Inca and pre-Inca ruins, Aymara terraced fields, and abandoned copper mines and ghost towns from the nitrate boom are all silent witnesses to thousands of years of remarkable history in this seemingly inhospitable land. The small village churches of the north were founded during the era of the Spanish conquest and are among the oldest churches in Chile.

Join us in following in the footsteps of the Aymara and Chinchorro, and walk the paths of other ancient civilizations. You will see the fascinating images carved into the hillsides that guided people from the Andes to the Pacific Ocean over thousands of years.

The broad range of animal species to be observed in this special location also makes for an unforgettable experience. Alpacas, llamas, guanacos, vizcachas (a type of rodent), armadillos, flamingos, wild ducks, and hundreds of other bird species are found here –come and discover them for yourself.

Altiplano

**SNOW-COVERED VOLCANOES –
SALT LAKES – DESERT – HISTORY**





CLASSIC EXCURSIONS

Full day

- LAUCA NATIONALPARK
- OFF THE BEATEN PATH: SALAR DE HUASCO NATIONAL PARK

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Half day

- CITY TOUR ARICA
- CITY TOUR IQUIQUE

Full day

- SALTPETRE GHOSTS TOWNS
- SALTPETRE GHOST TOWNS, MYSTERIOUS GEOGLYPHS AND THE PICA OASIS

LAUCA NATIONAL PARK

☀️ (Full day)

This fascinating all-day excursion will take you to Lauca National Park in the Altiplano. This journey traverses Lluta Valley, whose fertile irrigated land provides a surprising contrast to the dry desert. Mysterious rock paintings of llamas and humans cover the hillsides. Fortresses dating back from the time of the Incan conquest, Incan passages and way markers in existence before the Spanish arrived still line the land. Wander pre-Hispanic highland villages such as Putre (3,500m/11,483ft) and Parinacota (4,329m/14,203ft), where the town's little houses charmingly gather around a quaint, 300-year-old adobe church. Moving on, the tour takes you to Lake Chungará (4,500m/14,764ft), whose deep blue surface beautifully reflects the snow-covered volcano of Parinacota. The Altiplano's animal world is also impressively varied, ranging from guanacos, vicuñas, alpacas, and pumas to flamingos and skunks – to mention just a few. Towards evening, we depart from the highlands and return to Arica. During your return, you will experience a difference in altitude of 4,500m/14,764ft for the second time in one day.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH: SALAR DE HUASCO NATIONAL PARK

☀️ (Full day)

Early in the morning, you will leave Iquique for an excursion to the northern Chilean highlands, home to one of Chile's most beautiful and unique landscapes. Here in the Altiplano, far away from the crowds and a 3-hour drive from Iquique, is the National Park of the Salar Huasco, an untouched wetland at about 3,700m/12,140ft located in the otherwise arid highlands of Chile. The biotope is a special treat for photographers and nature lovers as all three flamingo species live here, as well as ñandus (a flightless bird similar to the ostrich), condors and of course the famous local vicuña. The dirt road that passes the Salar is assumed to have been part of the famous Incan trail (Camino de Inca), via which Diego de Almagro and Pedro de Valdivia came to Chile. On your way to the park, you will observe many curious sights such as a ceremonial centre worshipping «Pacha Mama» (Mother Earth) and the ancient highland village of Pozo Almonte, and, on the return trip, you will visit the ghost towns from the nitrate era, Santa Laura and Humberstone. In the early evening, you will return to Iquique.



CITY TOUR ARICA

(Half day)

Experience Arica, the City of Eternal Spring, during a city tour! In the city centre of Arica, Gustave Eiffel's heritage awaits you; the French engineer designed the San Marcos Cathedral and the historic customs office in the main square. Continue to the popular beaches La Lisera and El Laucho, known for their calm waters and round bay shape perfect for relaxing, surfing and diving. Travelling further inland, you will reach the Azapa Valley, whose archaeological museum exhibits the world's oldest mummies. Rounding up the excursion, you will visit the famous Morro, a sandstone rock at the coast standing 130m/427ft tall, which was stormed by the Chilean army during the war against Peru. An interesting museum illustrates this important point in Chilean history. The viewpoint on top offers a spectacular view of the city, the long beaches and the lush Lluta Valley.



CITY TOUR IQUIQUE

(Half day)

Get to know Iquique, the former bastion of the nitrate boom, during a city tour. Take in the long white beaches and the hustle and bustle of the port. In the city centre, explore the palm-lined Plaza Prat, with its English clock tower, impressive theatre and Moorish-styled Centro Español. These and other historical showpieces dating from the nitrate era are Iquique's pride and joy, and certainly deserve a visit. An additional attraction is Cerro Dragón (Dragon Mountain), a gigantic sand dune.





SALPETRE GHOSTS TOWNS

☀️ (Full day)

Setting off after breakfast into the country's interior, you will be transported back in time to the era of the nitrate boom that occurred here at the end of the 19th century. The nitrate mining towns of Humberstone and Santa Laura are witness to the birth and death of the boom. During its heyday, Santa Laura had slightly more than 400 inhabitants, while Humberstone was home to 3,500 workers. Once upon a time, a hotel with a giant swimming pool, numerous warehouses, a church, a school, and a sports stadium brought life to these desert communities. It all made for a bizarre atmosphere that can still be felt wandering the abandoned streets.

The nitrate boom collapsed after the invention of synthetic ammonia, and the two mining towns were abandoned, though they were not officially closed until 1960/61. Both ghost towns were designated national monuments in 1970, and, since 2005, they are also listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The return drive to Iquique is in the afternoon. There you will have time to visit the beach or take a stroll through town.



SALPETRE GHOST TOWNS, MYSTERIOUS GEOGLYPHS AND THE PICA OASIS

☀️ (Full day)

The first stop is a visit to the abandoned nitrate mining towns of Santa Laura and Humberstone, which evidence the birth and death of the nitrate boom. During its heyday, Santa Laura had slightly more than 400 inhabitants, while Humberstone was home to 3,500 workers. Once upon a time, a hotel, a giant swimming pool, numerous warehouses, a church, a school, and a sports stadium brought life to these desert towns. It all made for a bizarre atmosphere that can still be felt wandering the abandoned streets. The nitrate boom collapsed after the invention of synthetic ammonia, and the two mining towns were abandoned by their workers, though they were not officially closed until 1960/61. Both ghost towns were named national monuments in 1970 and have been on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 2005.

After your visit to Humberstone and Santa Laura, the tour takes you through a large section of the Pampa del Tamarugal Nature Reserve – a large area of vegetation of around 240,000 hectares in the middle of the desert – before reaching the 'Pintados' (Painted) Geoglyphs, pre-Columbian rock art that was made either by scraping stone or by laying dark stones over lighter layers. These giant stone mosaics can take up entire hillsides and show representations of humans, animals and symbols. The origin of these works remains a mystery to this day.

The final destination of this day trip is the Pica Oasis, where the inhabitants cultivate citrus fruits and mango. Here a natural rock pool filled with clear spring water provides a wonderful spot for relaxation.



The small oasis town of San Pedro de Atacama in the middle of the Atacama Desert is blessed with a range of attractions within its proximity, and globetrotters have been drawn to this amazing location for decades. The wealth of San Pedro's natural and archaeological highlights include the El Tatio Geysers, Valley of the Moon, the ancient fortress of Pucará de Quito and the thermal springs of Puritama. The town, with its sandy streets and low adobe houses, is one of a kind.

San Pedro de Atacama

**LAND OF THE FLAMINGOS:
SALARES, GEYSERS, HIGHLAND LAGOONS**



CLASSIC EXCURSIONS



Half day

- CITY TOUR SAN PEDRO
- VALLE DE LA LUNA
- RAINBOW VALLEY
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR
- WATER IN THE DESERT: GUATIN & PURITAMA
- LAGUNA CEJAR
- LAGUNAS BALTINACHE



Full day

- EL TATIO GEYSERS
- SALAR DE ATACAMA AND LAGUNAS ALTIPLANICAS
- EXCURSION TO PIEDRAS ROJAS AND LAGUNAS ALTIPLÁNICAS
- THE MONKS OF PACANA AND LAGUNA PUJA

ACTIVE TOURS



Half day

- HIKINGS TOURS AT QUEBRADA DEL DIABLO
- TREKKING LAS CORNIZAS



Full day

- TREKKING VOLCAN TOCO
- HIKINGS TOURS AT MACHUCA – RIO GRANDE
- HIKINGS TOURS AT CATARPE – VALLE DE LA MUERTE
- HIKINGS TOURS AT CARI GORGE

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES



Half day

- ANCESTRAL CARAVAN
- CHUQUICAMATA COPPER MINE
- POTTERY WORKSHOP **NEW**
- LOCAL EXPERIENCE AT AN ATACAMEÑA FARM

ASTRONOMY TOURS



Night tour

- SEE INTO ANOTHER WORLD – STAR OBSERVATION IN SAN PEDRO
- COSMO TOUR
- ASTRO-PHOTOGRAPHY

SPECIAL EXPERIENCES



Half day

- BALLOONING OVER ATACAMA **NEW**



CITY TOUR SAN PEDRO

 (Half day)

San Pedro is the archaeological centre of Chile. The small town lies at the foot of the imposing Licancabur Volcano and is framed by two rivers. You start this interesting excursion at the centre of the town with a visit to the old church of San Pedro, the parish church of the village dating from 1641. The church, whose roof is made of cactus wood, is the landmark of the town and adjoins the beautiful Plaza de Armas and its several hundred-year-old pepper trees. The plaza is also home to the city council, a building with characteristic colonial architecture. Your guide will take you for a stroll across the plaza before showing you the adjacent arts and crafts market.



VALLE DE LA LUNA

 (Half day)

This tour into the rugged beauty of the Atacama Desert begins at dusk. With the Licancabur Volcano providing the backdrop, the strange salt and rock formations in the middle of the valley's barren sandy landscape really do look like a moonscape. After a tour past the bizarre natural rock and salt shapes, you will ascend to the next lookout point on a giant sand dune, where you will enjoy an awe-inspiring view of the valley and the volcano. Onwards, you will pass by the bizarre rock formation Tres Marías and end the excursion at Coyote Rock. Kari Canyon and vast expanses of the desert can be gazed upon from the height above. The setting sun bathes the landscape in a light that changes with every minute, providing a mesmerising play of colours. The return drive to San Pedro is after sunset.

NOTE: This tour can be combined with a visit to Valle de la Muerte (Death Valley). The horizontal sedimentary layers of the valley walls provide evidence of the ancient lake that once filled the valley, where a million years of erosion by wind and rain have created amazing figures of salt, gypsum and clay.



RAINBOW VALLEY

 (Half day)

This tour begins with a visit to the rock paintings of Yervas Buenas, where you will witness images of animals, humans and geometric shapes created long ago by the native Atacameños. Afterwards, we tour the village of Río Grande before taking a stroll through the Valle Arcoiris (Rainbow Valley). The valley is aptly named for the bizarre rock formations, walls and towers formed by the biting desert winds, all which glow in a wide range of colours, from deep red, to white, to emerald green – truly a fascinating experience.

The return drive back to San Pedro is after the walk.

NOTE: *The valley is inaccessible for large buses, and, therefore, visits are only possible with small groups of up to ten people.*



ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR

 (Half day)

During this tour rediscover the footsteps of the ancient Atacameños and Incas. Your guide will take you to three archaeological sites: Aldea de Tolor, Pukará de Quitar and Tambo de Katarpe. The Aldea de Tolor is a village of ruins dating from around 800 BC, where once up to 200 inhabitants lived. Next to the ruins, two buildings have been reconstructed according to authentic designs and turned into a museum. Next, visit the fortress of Pukará de Quitar only 3km/2mi north of San Pedro. It was erected by the Atacameños during the 12th century BC and later extended by the Incas. The Spanish took the fort in 1540. There is a dazzling view towards San Pedro and the Andean mountain chain from the fortress, including volcanoes in the background.



EL TATIO GEYSERS

☀️ (Full day)

Those who wish to experience the El Tatio Geysers have to get up early to ensure a timely arrival at the geysers and experience the sunrise. The fountains that shoot up to 10m/33ft high are a beautiful sight. After the spectacular show, you have the choice of recovering from the morning chill by warming up in natural hot spring pools. The return drive to San Pedro takes place around midday.

NOTE: *The excursion to the El Tatio Geysers can be combined with a visit to the small desert village of Machuca (altitude: over 4000m/13,124ft), where guests may try traditional llama meat and empanadas. Another very attractive option is the visit to the Puritama Hot Springs.*

WATER IN THE DESERT: GUATIN & PURITAMA

🕒 (Half day)

The Guatin Valley serves as the junction of two rivers. One originates from the Puritama thermal springs and carries earth and minerals in its warm waters, while the other river (the Purifica River) has its origins in the Andes. This extraordinary mixture of hot spring water and cold melted water creates a unique ecosystem in the Guatin Canyon, which is also home to the interesting giant candelabra cacti that grow in the canyon, some of which are 500 years old. This pleasant hike begins in the Guatin Canyon, whose vibrant red rocks provide a wonderful display of colours. The walk along the canyon floor follows a steady incline through unique local flora before reaching the Puritama Hot Springs. These eight natural pools with crystal clear thermal water are ideal for a relaxing swim prior to your return drive back to San Pedro.





LAGUNA CEJAR

🕒 (Half day)

The Laguna Cejar is a salt lake in the middle of the flat desert landscape and is located 30km/19mi north of San Pedro de Atacama. The water is a deep turquoise blue, while the edge of the lagoon is decorated by a white salt crust. Enjoy the breathtaking views of this setting unique to San Pedro de Atacama. Commanded by the outline of the Licancabur Volcano and the surrounding backdrop of the desert, the lagoon is a perfect photo opportunity. During a stroll around the lagoon, you can observe many bird species, and, with a little luck, you can even watch flamingos in their natural habitat. Afterwards, you are driven back to San Pedro.

LAGUNAS BALTINACHE

🕒 (Half day)

Get to know one of the best kept secrets of San Pedro: the Lagunas Baltinache, a place of overwhelming beauty and tranquillity. These seven turquoise lagoons are part of the immense Salar de Atacama. The Lagunas Escondidas of Baltinache are surrounded by a thick layer of salt that makes the water an intense turquoise. It is possible to swim in two of the lagoons, which, due to the salt, have the same effect as the Dead Sea: one relaxingly drifts atop of the water.





SALAR DE ATACAMA AND LAGUNAS ALTIPLÁNICAS

 (Full day)

In the early morning, depart from San Pedro and travel to the Salar de Atacama, a salt lake of huge proportions (3,000 sq km/1,158 sq mi). Its surface is covered by a thick layer of snow-white salt crystals as far as the eye can see, caused by the evaporation of the lake's water. The world's largest lithium deposits are found here, and the salt pan is also home to several flamingo species, including the Andean, Chilean and James flamingos, who feed on the microorganisms found in the saline lagoons. These graceful birds, among other species, can be observed in their natural habitat at the Salar de Atacama's Chaxa Lagoon, which is part of the Reserva Nacional de los Flamencos.

The journey then continues to the tiny village of Socaire, set at 3,218m/10,558ft, noteworthy for its special architecture using rough stonework. The few inhabitants here still live by the age-old methods of planting crops. Afterwards, you begin the drive back to San Pedro.



EXCURSION TO PIEDRAS ROJAS AND LAGUNAS ALTIPLÁNICAS

 (Full day)

In the early morning, you will head southwards from San Pedro. Your first stop is the tiny village of Socaire, set at 3,218m/10,558ft and noteworthy for its strange architecture using rough stonework. The few inhabitants here still live by the age-old methods of planting terraced fields with corn, wheat and potatoes. Here you will have a delicious breakfast before continuing your journey to magical lagoons and impressive stone formations. Your next stop is Laguna de Tuyajto at around 4,000m/13,123ft, which you will reach after a 45-minute drive. With its shiny blue water and glittering reflection of the mountains in the background (thanks to the salt in the water), the lagoon offers a spectacular sight. You will then drive in direction of San Pedro and stop at the unique geological formation Piedras Rojas (Red Stones) in the Salar de Talar. These special big red stones surround a turquoise lagoon – the landscape is breathtaking. You will feel like you are on another planet. Finally, you will visit the highland lagoons of Miscanti and Miñiques, with the two – almost 6,000m/19,686ft high – volcanoes of the same names in the background. The twin lagoons are a deep blue, each framed by a white salt crust, which creating a memorable contrast to the yellow highland grass all around. It is completely silent here. Even the duck species that breed here, the foxes and the grazing vicuñas (a type of sheep) respect the majestic silence. The drive back to San Pedro is in the late afternoon.

THE MONKS OF PACANA AND LAGUNA PUJSA

☀️ (Full day)

This excursion travels to the uniquely beautiful border region between Chile and Argentina, and goes to places rarely visited by other tourists. Heading east out of San Pedro, through the Pampa de la Bola, various viewpoints will soon treat you to wonderful views of the many surrounding peaks topping 4,877m/16,000ft. By the small salt pan of Pujsa, you will also get the chance to observe hundreds of flamingos in their natural habitat, a unique experience seldom lived by other travellers. The Salar de Pujsa is the region's most important breeding site for the James flamingo species.

En route to the Salar de Aguas Calientes (Hot Water Salt Pan) and its gorgeous blue lagoon surrounded by yellow grass, the tour will also visit the Monks of Pacana, large pointed cliffs and naturally-formed sculptures standing in the middle of the desert that resemble a lonely procession of monks – hence their name. In Chile, this natural phenomenon is also known as the Moais of the Desert – referring to the man-made Moais of Easter Island. Take a stroll among the monks before the return drive back to San Pedro in the late afternoon.

NOTE: As most of this tour takes place at altitude levels between 4,000m/13,124ft and 4,600m/15,092ft, there is a possibility of experiencing conditions associated with altitude sickness, such as nausea and tiredness.





HIKING AT QUEBRADA DEL DIABLO

☀️ (Half day)

The Quebrada del Diablo (Devil's Canyon) has impressive rock formations which form a true labyrinth in the Cordillera de la Sal (Salt Mountain). Take a discovery tour between the rocks and enjoy this natural wonder. A river makes a beautiful contrast to the dry walls of the Cordillera de la Sal.

TREKKING LAS CORNIZAS

☀️ (Half day)

During this trekking to Las Cornizas, you will fully enjoy the quiet and expanse of the desert. The trekking starts in the old tunnel between San Pedro and Calama. The climb up the La Corniza hill will be greatly rewarded with a spectacular panoramic view over the desert scenery. The trekking ends in the Death Valley (Valle de la Muerte). This valley was a lake in ancient times, which still can be seen in the horizontal sediment layers in its rocky slopes. Here wind and rain have carved the most peculiar sculptures from sand, gypsum and clay that delight visitors.



TREKKING VOLCAN TOCO

☀️ (Full day)

Departing from San Pedro in the morning, the drive will take you close to the Argentinean border to trek up the Toco Volcano. The ascent to the summit is technically easy. Nevertheless, the altitude makes this an exhausting hike. The reward comes after three hours, when the summit is reached and superb views of the surrounding volcanoes and mountain chains can be enjoyed. The immense salt pan of Salar de Atacama glows white far below. The descent follows after a good rest at the summit, and the journey back to San Pedro is by minibus.

NOTE: The level of difficulty is moderate, and the hike can take between three and four hours, depending on the fitness level of the guests. Previous acclimatisation to altitude in San Pedro and experience of mountain hiking at over 4,000m/13,124ft is essential.

HIKING AT MACHUCA – RÍO GRANDE

☀️ (Full day)

This hike, which leads from the altiplano village of Machuca down to the Río Grande, passes through a number of different plant zones, offering a great variety of impressions along the way. Abandoned farming terraces and irrigation channels are testament to the ancient cultures of this lonely region and proof that life was once sustained in the desert. During the course of the hike, you will see canyons up to 300m/984ft deep, as well as giant cacti and plenty of alpacas that inhabit this region. Your bus transport will be waiting for you when you arrive at the oasis of Río Grande. During the journey home, a fascinating detour is made to the rock paintings of Yervas Buenas, created by the Atacameños long ago.

NOTE: This hike lasts around five hours and is almost completely downhill.



HIKING AT CATARPE - VALLE DE LA MUERTE

☀️ (Full day)

First, a bus will take you from San Pedro to the Catarpe Valley, where the hike begins by following an old nitrate trade route. The track leads uphill until it reaches a tunnel cut out of the rock that once housed supplies for the local mines. Beyond the tunnel, the route follows a mountain ridge from which there are beautiful views onto the green Catarpe Valley – a fascinating contrast to the surrounding desert landscape. The route continues onto a large sand dune located above the Death Valley (Valle de la Muerte), which can either be descended at a leisurely pace, or – much more fun – you can run or slide down the dune at full speed. Afterwards, the hike continues through the unique landscape of dunes and rocks. Those with sufficient energy can continue onwards to the ruins of the Pukará de Quito fortress.

NOTE: This tour offers the option of minibus transport as far as the tunnel, which cuts the duration of the hike by one hour.

HIKING AT CARI GORGE

☀️ (Full day)

This unique gorge in the Cordillera de la Sal (Salt Mountains) was formed by the combined effects of water, wind and extreme temperatures. For those who want to spend a morning or afternoon far from the standard tourist trails, the dried-out river beds here are the perfect place to inspire the imagination as you wander past astonishing chalk and sandstone formations, following a natural labyrinth along winding tracks. The hike is easy and also suitable for inexperienced hikers.



ANCESTRAL CARAVAN

 (Half day)

This excursion is an immersion experience in which you will learn about the culture and way of life of the locals from your local guide. Walking your own llama in an “ancestral caravan”, you will travel the historical paths of the ancient desert dwellers, the Likan Antai, and relive a part of their history. Your local guide will teach you the ways of the natives, further making this visit a very special experience. Ancestral cemeteries will be visited during this excursion, where a wealth of historical information will be shared with you. Discover firsthand the experience of submersing yourself in a piece of history and culture – a true memory not to be forgotten.



CHUQUICAMATA COPPER MINE

 (Half day)

Visit Chuquicamata - the largest copper mine in the world, even visible from space! This giant hole in the desert landscape is the heart of Chile's economy. Even the Incans extracted copper here. In 1910, the first modern conveyor system was built, and now 600,000 tons of copper are produced here annually. The main pit is currently over 4km/2.5mi long, 3km/2mi wide and 850m/2,789ft deep.

NOTE: Ideally you should visit the copper mine from Calama on the first or last day of your stay.

Permission to visit this working mine depends on the company's operations.

A visit to the mine is only possible from Monday to Friday and can be cancelled at the last minute by the mining company.



POTTERY WORKSHOP

NEW

 (Half day)

During your visit to San Pedro de Atacama you can make your own ceramic handicrafts using the ancient technique of hand modelling. In this pottery workshop designed for beginners you will try the technique out yourself and learn more about the culture of this desert city. After getting to know the ceramics studio, you will start on your own work and learn the ancient techniques of this craft in an entertaining way.

NOTE: The maximum group size is usually 6 persons.



LOCAL EXPERIENCE AT AN ATACAMEÑA FARM

☀️ (Half day)

This excursion gives you interesting insight into the daily life on a traditional farm in the Atacama region and presents to you authentic homemade products. The visit starts with a tour through the farmland, where you will learn about the regional fruit and vegetable cultivation as well as the livestock farming. Afterwards, the finished products coming from the farm will be explained to you before continuing with a tasting of some very special homemade delicacies typical of this region. There is also the option to enjoy a typical lunch.



SEE INTO ANOTHER WORLD – STAR OBSERVATION IN SAN PEDRO

☾ (Night tour)

There are few places in the world where the sky is as clear and the view of the stars is as good as in northern Chile. It is no surprise that this area is home to several of the world’s most important international observatories. Astronomers from all over the world are regularly drawn here for research. There are several options for star observation, catering different interests and requirements. During your visit, an expert explains the basics of astronomy and highlights special features of the Southern Hemisphere. There are also tours that explain the Atacameños’ world view. You will get an unforgettable glimpse of the distant stars and galaxies by looking through a telescope.

NOTE: All tours take place outside; warm clothing is recommended.

COSMO TOUR

☾ (Night tour)

This interesting tour, "The Big Bang Experience", starts at 9 pm and lasts about two hours. In small groups and with English audiovisual material, you can learn in a very intimate setting about the vastness of our universe and gain insight into cosmic and physical processes. Exciting topics such as time travel, parallel universes and extraterrestrial life stimulate interesting conversations. First, view the sky with the naked eye and then through modern telescopic equipment. End the night with a group photo in front of the starry sky, and capture the unique experience forever. The event is complemented by amusing background music, and hot drinks (tea and coffee) and warm ponchos are provided. After the end of the tour, guests are taken back to the hotel.



ASTRO-PHOTOGRAPHY

🌙 (Night tour)

On our astro-photography tour, you can freely enjoy taking your own night shots. Our team of photographers will help you to achieve your best shots and give you a basic lesson on photography in one of the cleanest skies of the planet.

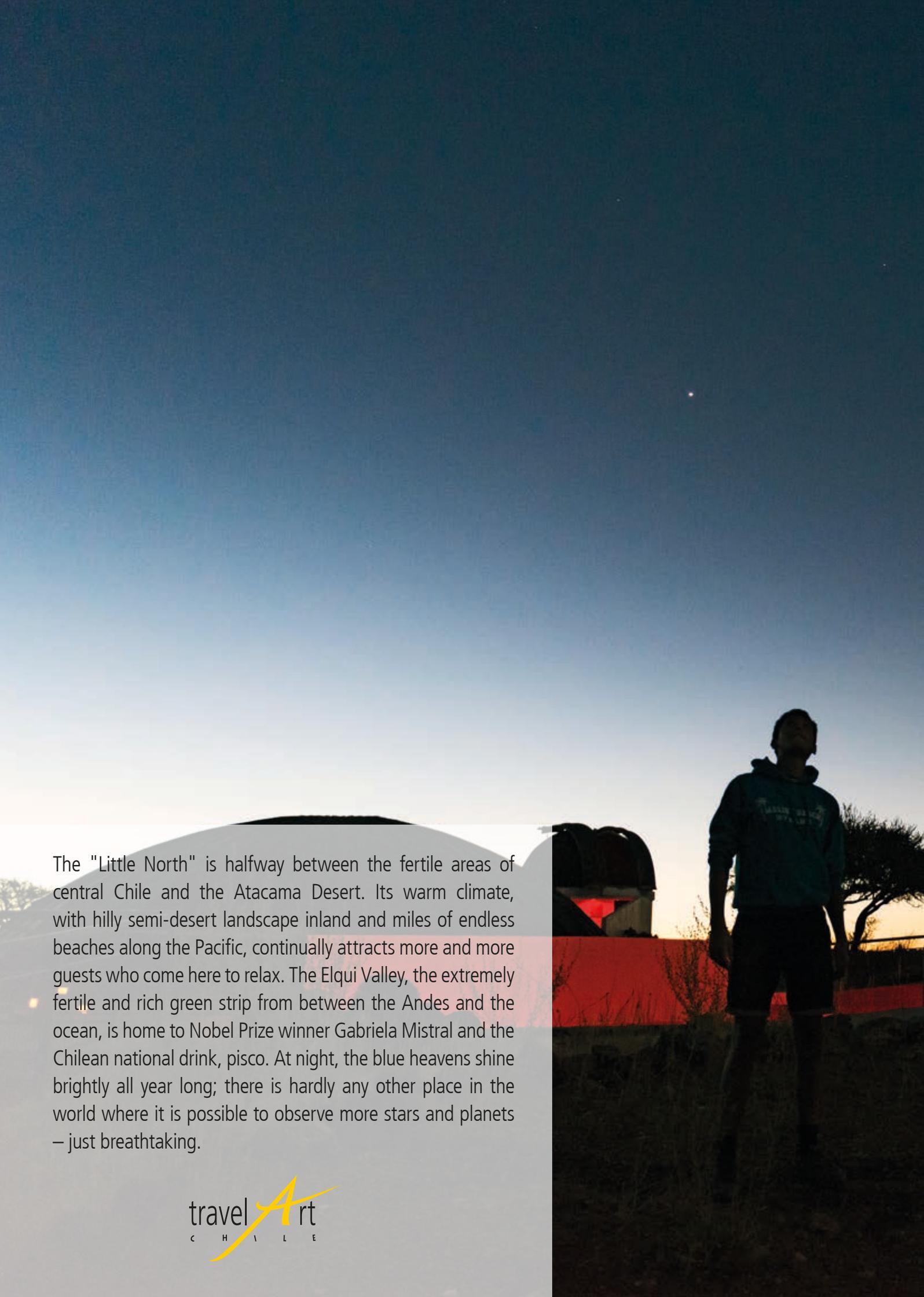
**NEW**

BALLOONING OVER ATACAMA

☀️ (Half day)

Experience Atacama from a different perspective, floating high above the desert. This unique experience begins in the early morning hours so as to fly under perfect conditions and thoroughly enjoy the sunrise in the Andes. After being picked up from your accommodation and upon arrival at the take-off site, you will be given a short introduction and safety instructions while the hot air balloons are inflated for your flight. In the air you have a spectacular view of the mountains and the Salar de Atacama. After landing - though your thoughts may still be floating between the clouds - you will be served a delicious breakfast before being taken back to your hotel.





The "Little North" is halfway between the fertile areas of central Chile and the Atacama Desert. Its warm climate, with hilly semi-desert landscape inland and miles of endless beaches along the Pacific, continually attracts more and more guests who come here to relax. The Elqui Valley, the extremely fertile and rich green strip from between the Andes and the ocean, is home to Nobel Prize winner Gabriela Mistral and the Chilean national drink, pisco. At night, the blue heavens shine brightly all year long; there is hardly any other place in the world where it is possible to observe more stars and planets – just breathtaking.

The Small North

BEACHES – STARS – PISCO – POETRY





CLASSIC EXCURSIONS



Half day

- CITY TOUR LA SERENA



Full day

- ELQUI VALLEY

WILDLIFE WATCHING



Full day

- ISLA DAMAS
- WHALEWATCHING IN CHAÑARAL DE ACEITUNOS

HIKES



Full day

- FRAY JORGE NATIONAL PARK AND VALLE DEL ENCANTO

ASTRONOMY TOURS



Night excursions

- ASTRONOMICAL TOUR IN THE NATURAL PLANETARIUM ALFA ALDEA
- VISIT THE MAMALLUCA OBSERVATORY



CITY TOUR LA SERENA

(Half day)

Get to know La Serena during a city tour. Beginning at the city centre in the Plaza de Armas with its beautiful cathedral, the first visit is to the Archaeological Museum, where you gain useful insight into the pre-Columbian cultures that once existed in Chile. Afterwards, the tour continues to the attractive crafts market at La Recova and then on to the hill that is home to the local university, where there is an impressive view over La Serena and the Bay of Coquimbo. Your tour also leads to the city’s emblem: the lighthouse by the sea, located on a beach promenade very popular during summer. Also visit neighbouring Coquimbo, with a traditional fish and seafood market and attractive beaches. La Serena is one of Chile’s most appealing cities as the ‘Plan La Serena’ has ensured that the city’s rich architectural heritage be maintained throughout periods of growth and development, allowing La Serena to keep its own unique character.



ELQUI VALLEY / ELQUITAL

(Full day)

This excursion takes you to Elqui Valley, a narrow and fertile strip of land in the middle of the semi-desert, surrounded by a mountainous landscape covered in cacti. The Elqui Valley is also renowned for its pisco - a Chilean schnapps made from distilled wine. The production process is demonstrated during a visit to a pisco distillery, and, of course, you get the chance to try the pisco! Lunch is in the small town of Vicuña, the birthplace of the Nobel laureate in literature Gabriela Mistral, where you will visit the Bauer Tower (the old Town Hall), the church of Vicuña and the main square of the village before continuing towards a Pisco distillery to see the production of this liquor, which is made from different varieties of grapes by the process of distillation of wine. Lunch will be in a typical restaurant, and, in the afternoon, you will visit the grave of Gabriela Mistral in the Village of Montegrande, as well as her childhood school building that has been converted into a museum. In the evening, you will return to La Serena. Lunch is included.



ISLA DAMAS

☀️ (Full day)

This fascinating all-day excursion is ideal for nature lovers and the adventurous. The journey from La Serena heads north to the small bay of Los Choros, from where you can see the little islands of Gaviota, Choros and Damas that make up the Humboldt Penguin Nature Reserve. Sail in a boat to Isla Damas, where sea lions, gulls and pelicans live. The highlight of the day are the dolphins that live near Isla Damas, which are easily spotted during the boat trip to and from the island. The return drive to La Serena is in the evening.

NOTE: The boat tour is subject to weather conditions



WHALEWATCHING IN CHAÑARAL DE ACEITUNOS

☀️ (Full day)

Just over a two hour drive from La Serena is Isla Chañaral, which leads to an area of the Humboldt Penguin Nature Reserve. Small boats are waiting for you in the fishing bay of Chañaral to take you to Chañaral Island. Along the way, you have the opportunity to observe Humboldt penguins, sea lions, chungungos, and cormorants. Between November and March, the area is inhabited by up to six different whale species, including the blue whale. Return to La Serena in the evening.

NOTE: The boat tour is subject to weather conditions.





FRAY JORGE NATIONAL PARK AND VALLE DEL ENCANTO

☀️ (Full day)

Departing from La Serena in the morning, this tour heads south to the temperate rainforest of Fray Jorge National Park, declared a UNESCO World Biosphere site. Valdivian temperate rainforests normally only thrive in the cool damp climate of southern Chile but also surprisingly exist here, despite the dry climate, thanks to the coastal fog. An informative hike through the green forest, which provides a wonderful contrast to its dry setting, introduces visitors to various ecosystems and plant species.

Following on from this visit, the tour continues to the Valle del Encanto, a small hidden valley that was inhabited by hunters in 2000 BC. Over 50 petroglyphs and cult stones testify to the fact that this was once an important cultural centre for the pre-Incan Molle culture.





ASTRONOMICAL TOUR IN THE NATURAL PLANETARIUM ALFA ALDEA

🌙 (Night excursion)

The natural planetarium Alfa Aldea offers small groups the possibility to discover the sparkling night skies of the Valle del Elqui with an astronomy expert. The visit starts with a presentation that is supported by impressive 3D pictures. Then, have a look through the telescope, and, with the instructions of your guide, discover planets, galaxies and star constellations while sipping a glass of wine and enjoying a snack. The activities take place outside in the open air; blankets are available.

NOTE: The visit is subject to weather conditions.



VISIT THE MAMALLUCA OBSERVATORY

☾ (Night excursion)

This half-day evening excursion to the observatory will take you through the Elqui Valley, a narrow, fertile strip of land in the middle of a semi-desert region. In the village of Vicuña, birthplace of Nobel Prize winner Gabriela Mistral, make a quick stop at the Plaza de Armas before going over unpaved roads to the observatory. At the observatory, you will take part in expertly guided observations of the starry sky, cloudless and clear over 300 days of the year. Return late in the evening to La Serena.





The central region of Chile could hardly be more beautiful. Within visible reach, the majestic Andes offer great hiking and skiing areas, and, no more than a stone's throw away, the endless Pacific Ocean and beautiful beaches stretch along the coast. Explore Valparaiso, the most important port city in Latin America, and see why it was known as the Pearl of the Pacific until the construction of the Panama Canal. For wine lovers, the areas surrounding Santiago offer the opportunity to visit both traditional and young boutique wineries and to taste why Chilean wines are now world-renowned. A separate chapter on the most important wineries in the region can be found in our product manual.

Central Region



Santiago

MODERN AND FULL OF HISTORY

Santiago is the cultural centre of the country. More than a third of all Chileans live in Santiago de Chile, a city rich in history and modernity. Both neighbourhoods boasting charming colonial buildings and modern neighbourhoods with futuristic architecture can be found in the capital. Get to know the diverse faces of the city: discover beautiful and original art galleries, design shops, and arts and crafts markets, as well as a wide selection of restaurants, bars and cafés, and learn more about the country in the city's many beautiful museums!

The host of numerous events and outstanding international festivals, Santiago presents the best of Chilean culture and gives the city a cosmopolitan flair. In the Mercado Central, one of the most beautiful fish markets in the world, visitors can enjoy fish and seafood that will melt on their tongues - a paradise for gourmets.

CLASSIC EXCURSIONS

Half day

- CITY TOUR SANTIAGO
- HANDICRAFT VILLAGE LOS DOMINICOS

Add-on

- CITY TOUR WALK THROUGH PARQUE BICENTENARIO (1,5 hours)
- CITY TOUR WALK THROUGH LASTARRIA (2 hours)
- SKY COSTANERA
- CITY TOUR STREET ART

CULINARY EXPERIENCES

Half day

- AFTERNOON FOOD & CULTURE WALKING TOUR
- LAFKEN WINES VINEYARD - CHILEAN COOKING CLASS 

Full day

- MARKET TOUR AND COOKING EXPERIENCE
- LAFKEN WINES VINEYARD, BAHÁ'Í TEMPLE AND CHILEAN LUNCH 

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Half day

- SANTIAGO MARKET TOUR
- VISIT TO THE BAHÁ'Í TEMPLE WITH PANORAMIC VIEW OF SANTIAGO 
- CITY TOUR SHALOM CHILE - JEWISH CULTURE IN SANTIAGO 
- CITY TOUR "LOS BARRIOS"

Full day

- CITY TOUR HISTORY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Evening tour

- DANCE CUECA LIKE A CHILEANS

ACTIVE TOURS

Half day

- TREKKING PARQUE AGUAS DE RAMÓN 
- BIKE TOUR THROUGH SANTIAGO
- LOCAL LIFE AND MARKETS MORNING BIKE TOUR



CITY TOUR SANTIAGO

(Half day)

Santiago, combines the characteristics of a rapidly modernising metropolis with the historic features of a colonial city. This private tour will introduce you to both the historic centre and Santiago’s modern side. In the historic centre, you will visit the presidential palace, once the national mint and hence named La Moneda. Additional sights are around the historic main square, the Plaza de Armas, which boasts a cathedral, the beautiful old post office building, the Palacio de la Real Audiencia (now home to the National History Museum), and the Casa Colonial, which was the governor’s residence during the colonial era. The best views of Santiago and the Andes can be enjoyed from the summit of Cerro San Cristóbal, where a large statue of the Virgin Mary overlooks the capital. The hill is part of the Parque Metropolitano - the city’s largest municipal park. After visiting Cerro San Cristóbal, the tour continues through Providencia, one of the capital’s exclusive districts, with attractive shops, good restaurants and modern high-rise buildings.



CITY TOUR WALK THROUGH PARQUE BICENTENARIO

(Add-on)

One walking tour option is through the Parque Bicentenario Vitacura. The park is located in the modern area of Santiago, which the locals like to call “Sanhattan” because of its countless skyscrapers. This oasis of native plant species offers a relaxing counterpoint to the bustle of the big city. The centre of the spacious park boasts an artificial lagoon with Chilean flamingos and Patagonian black-necked geese. On clear days, the Andes seem close enough to touch from the park.

CITY TOUR WALK THROUGH LASTARRIA

🕒 (Add-on)

Another walking tour option is the district of Lastarria in the heart of Santiago and the perfect place to immerse yourself in the cultural and culinary life of Chileans. The numerous cafés and bars invite you, with a drink in hand, to observe creative street vendors and artists. Let your eyes

wander from the nearby hill of Santa Lucía, the founding site of the city, to the narrow streets with many craft and other small shops. For art lovers, the neoclassical-style Bellas Artes Museum opens its doors to visitors in the traditional Forestal Park.



SKY COSTANERA

🕒 (Add-on)

You will visit the spectacular observation platform called “Sky Costanera” on the 61st and 62nd floors of Costanera Center. With its 300m tower, Costanera Center is the tallest building in South America. The observation platform offers a breathtaking 360° panoramic view of the city, with visibility on good days reaching up to 50km into the surrounding region. With clear skies, even the ski centres in the Andes are visible. Information boards explain the

most important sights of the city, such as the presidential palace “La Moneda” and the National Stadium, and make orientation easier for its visitors.



CITY TOUR STREET ART

(Add-on)

As in many cities around the world, Santiago has established a vibrant art scene for street art and graffiti. Streets and building facades offer the younger generation of Chile the perfect surface for many artistic works. These works can be discovered on our walking tour, following the footsteps of this contemporary urban art form and its creators.



HANDICRAFT VILLAGE LOS DOMINICOS

(Half day)

Your private tour guide accompanies you on this excursion to Santiago’s prettiest craft market, housed in the Pueblo Los Dominicos ‘village’ in the neighbourhood of the same name. It is located next to an old monastery and offers a very pleasant atmosphere, ideal for window shopping. Small adobe cottages in the traditional style of historic villages line the clay streets and squares. In addition to Chilean art and craft work, there are also local snacks to savour.



AFTERNOON FOOD & CULTURE WALKING TOUR

 (Half day)

Experience Santiago's inspired neighbourhoods during an afternoon of culture, food and wine. We start in the Tirso de Molina market for an introduction into Chilean ingredients and food. Browse the fruit and vegetable stands alongside local shoppers and sample a fresh juice along the way.

Then, we cross the river through one of Santiago's oldest parks, Parque Forestal, on our way to the Bellas Artes barrio. Stop to appreciate the façade of the neighbourhood's namesake landmark: the Bellas Artes Fine Arts Museum. Next, we visit a local eatery to sample a Chilean craft beer and a picoteo, a sampling of bites and finger food to accompany your drink. We then head to the edge of the Lastarria neighbourhood and indulge in Chile's favourite food group: ice cream. Before entering Lastarria, you'll have an introduction to the historic Cerro Santo Lucia at its base, right where the city was founded.

In Lastarria, we will pass by small boutiques, restaurants and a unique wine store before visiting the historic GAM cultural centre and hearing about Santiago's sinister past and bright future.

To wrap up our walk, we will visit an avant-garde restobar to sample some of Chile's boutique wines with a shared food pairing. This is an excellent way to start your trip in Chile and learn about the city's rich cultural history while enjoying the best of its wine and food.



LAFKEN WINES VINEYARD - CHILEAN COOKING CLASS

 (Half day)

Enjoy typical Chilean meals and learn how to prepare each dish yourself. This is a great way to get to know Chile's culture and history through its culinary dishes. After sipping a welcome drink of pisco sour, you will learn step by step how to prepare different dishes, from the fish dish ceviche to the classic corn casserole pastel de choclo to the popular dessert leche asada, a kind of flan. The menu is accompanied by the house's own wines from the Alto Maipo Valley and a panoramic view of Santiago and the Andes. After having prepared this traditional meal at Lakfen you can take your newfound knowledge and skills home with you to delight your family and friends with Chilean cookery.

MARKET TOUR AND COOKING EXPERIENCE

 (Full day)

In this activity, we visit Santiago’s main produce and fish markets, La Vega Central and Mercado Central, to buy fresh ingredients for a tasty meal. Accompany your guide as we select the best products from our favourite vendors, known as caseros, plus explore the variety of produce, other products and the culture at the market.

Next, we will head away from Santiago Centro to a private home to prepare a simple but delicious Chilean meal using the fresh products we just selected.

We will prepare dishes and drinks that are easy for our guests to replicate at home and that are perfect for sharing with friends and family.

These include fresh and filling sopaipillas, the easy-to-prepare but hard-to-forget ceviche, pebre - the popular table salsa served in Chile, and of course pisco sours. Rather than a formal cooking class with technical instruction, this is a collaborative effort to prepare a fresh meal and talk food and culture.

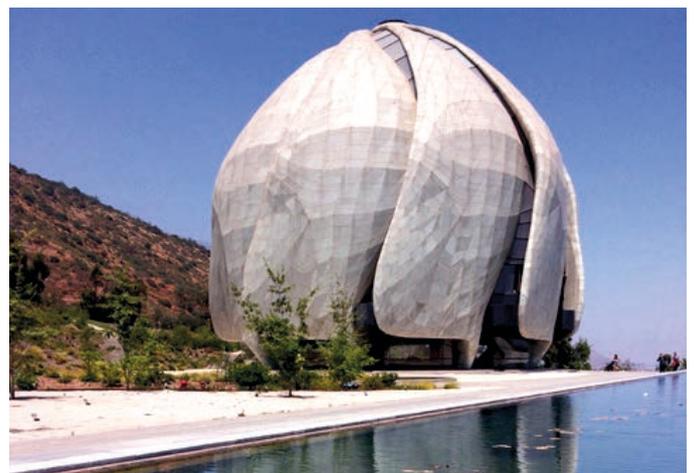


NEW

LAFKEN WINES VINEYARD, BAHÁ'Í TEMPLE AND CHILEAN LUNCH

 (Full day)

Starting from your hotel in Santiago you will drive to the Lafken Wines winery in Pirque. There you will learn more about production, the different grape varieties and the special climate in this area during a personally guided tour through the vineyards. Of course, you will be able to taste several of the in-house wines during the wine-tastings, some of them even straight from barrels in the wine cellar. After experiencing these wine delights you will drive to the first and only Bahá'í temple in South America. Here you will not only enjoy the silence of the temple and the surrounding gardens, but also a unique panoramic view of Santiago thanks to its high location in the Andean foothills. This excursion is topped off with a typical Chilean lunch, accompanied by Lafken wines from the Alto Maipo Valley.





SANTIAGO MARKET TOUR

(Half day)

Experience Chile’s vibrant market district first hand. In our market tour, you’ll get an introduction to and be able to sample the fresh, simple and wholesome typical fare that Chileans eat. We start at Plaza de Armas and walk our way north through La Vega Chico, La Vega Central, Tirso de Molina, and Mercado Central. This takes us through the lively bustle of the real working market that supplies much of the city with its fresh goods. It is a blend of colours, smells and faces with just a bit of chaos.

You’ll have the opportunity to try homestyle dishes like porotos granados and enjoy a refreshing mote con huesillo and the drink of the pueblo, the terremoto. We wrap up with a seafood empanada in the Mercado Central paired with a crisp glass of white wine. More than just a culinary tour, this is an excellent way to discover the local culture.

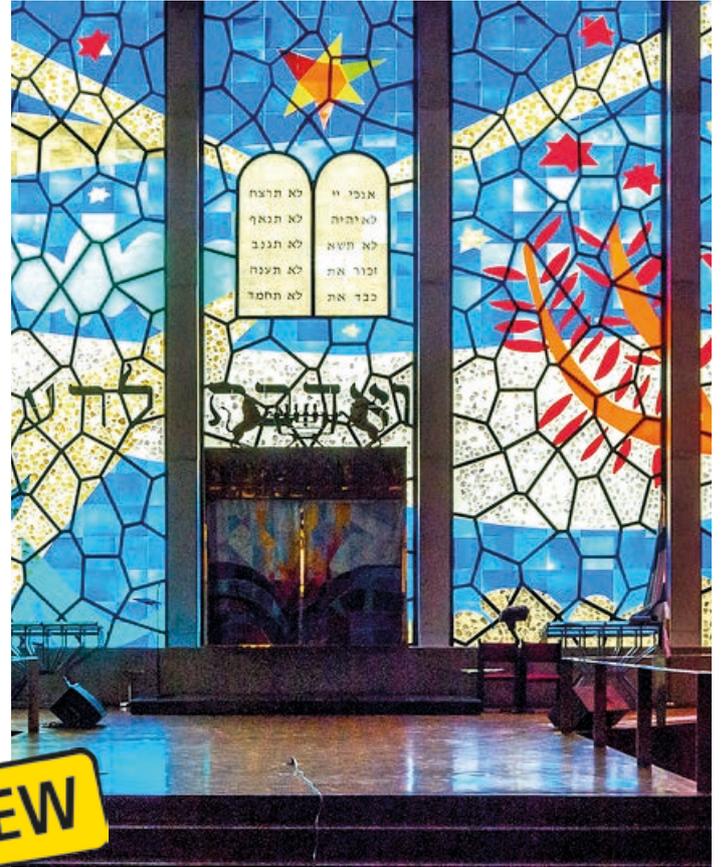


NEW

VISIT TO THE BAHÁ'Í TEMPLE WITH PANORAMIC VIEW OF SANTIAGO

(Half day)

Visit Santiago’s Bahá’í temple in the foothills of the Andes. Opened in October 2016, it is the eighth Bahá’í temple built worldwide. Bahá’í temples around the world not only serve as centres of worship, but also reflect architectural excellence. Designed by Hariri Pontarini architects, the temple in Santiago seems to be a floral blossom inviting people from all religions and countries of the world to pray and meditate. Take a tour inside the temple and enjoy the silence in the surrounding gardens designed by the celebrated Chilean landscape architect Juan Grimm. The gardens were designed to blend in perfectly with the Andean environment to create a „garden without borders“. Another highlight is the unique panoramic view of Santiago you can enjoy from the temple gardens, which is ideal for taking unique photos of Chile’s capital.



NEW

CITY TOUR SHALOM CHILE - JEWISH CULTURE IN SANTIAGO

 (Half day)

Visit traditional and historical places home to Jewish life in Santiago. During the excursion you will learn how the Jewish community in Chile has developed and grown. You will visit the Bomba Israelita, the only volunteer Jewish fire station in the world, founded in 1954. During your visit to the Estadio Israelita Maccabi you will get to know the local Jewish community centre, and afterwards you will visit two of the five synagogues of Santiago. You will then visit the Hebrew Institute, the Cementerio Israelita and the Jewish Interactive Museum, where you will learn more about Judaism in a historical world context. The museum aims to promote the value of and respect for multiculturalism in an educational way.

NOTE: Entrance to the facilities is subject to authorization by each facility's security service. Depending on availability other locations may be visited. On Saturdays it is not possible to enter certain synagogues during the tour. On religious holidays such as Yom Kippur, Rosh ha-Shana or Passover there are no guided tours.



CITY TOUR "LOS BARRIOS"

☀️ (Half day)

On this half-day tour you will experience Santiago's evolution from a colonial city to a vivid, urban city after the 19th century. Guests will discover the emblematic neighbourhoods ("barrios") of Barrio Brasil, Quinta Normal, Yungay, and Concha y Toro for a visit beyond the power of government and the business districts of the city centre. This side of the capital shows a bit of the soul of its inhabitants and their ancestors. Here you will experience the special magic of contemporary life combined with traditional flavour as preserved cultural treasures mix with the creativity, innovations and blazing life of its present inhabitants.

CITY TOUR HISTORY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

☀️ (Full day)

Gain an insight into Chile's eventful history, which will help you understand the character of the country and its people. More than 20 years have passed since the end of the authoritarian regime, but the open storytelling of its events is just beginning. This tour starts in Santiago's centre, in the area called Paris-Londres, where, from 1973, members of the regime gathered to plan the disappearances of those with an opposing ideology. Stones on the road are a reminder of the victims of the dictatorship. Other interesting impressions await you as you visit the presidential palace La Moneda, the setting of Salvador Allende's final hours. The centrepiece of this full-day excursion is the Museum of Remembrance and Human Rights, which offers a wide range of mementos from the dictatorship. It was opened in January 2010 and has encouraged many people to truly grasp this part of the country's history. The next stop is the General Cemetery, where many victims of the military coup are buried. To finish up the tour, you will visit Cerro San Cristóbal, a hill from which you can see the whole city and, in the distance, the national stadium that was once used as a detention centre. This final stop rounds up this historical and informative excursion with a positive view into the future.

NOTE: Chilean museums are closed on Mondays.





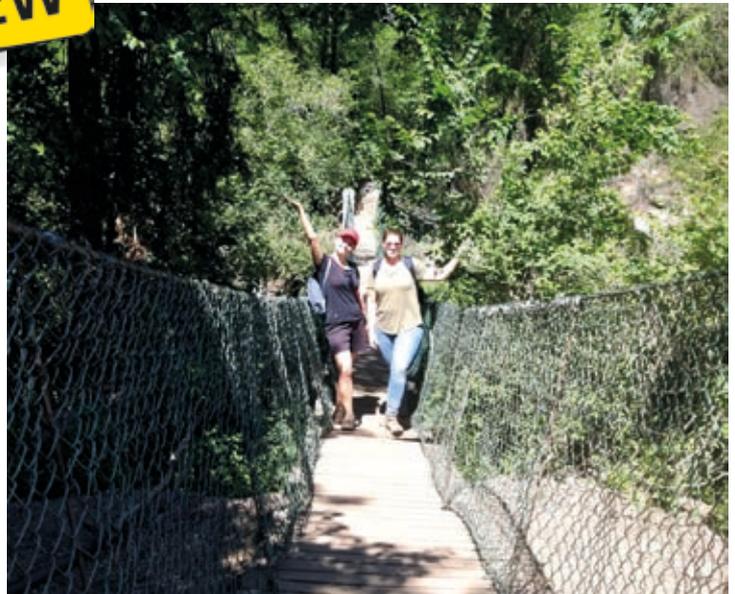
DANCE CUECA LIKE A CHILEAN

🌙 (Evening tour)

This evening experience is for those who want to discover the authentic Chilean culture. In the national dance "cueca", the man tries to win the heart of the woman through his impressive dancing. Men and woman circle around each other in a flirtatious manner, flagging a white handkerchief around. The dance follows a sequence which Chileans learn from childhood. "Cueca brava" is a special variant, a freer, popular style. In the restaurant La Chimenea, which is very popular with locals, you can learn the art of "cueca brava". The lessons are combined with traditional Chilean snacks. Afterwards, continue the evening in the traditional restaurant, where local guests converse and even dance together.



NEW



TREKKING PARQUE AGUAS DE RAMÓN

(Half day)

From your hotel in Santiago you will be driven to Aguas de Ramón Nature Park. There you will have countless possibilities to get to know the local nature with its rich flora and fauna. In the park you will come across various small waterfalls, a small rope park, extraordinary views, suspension bridges, and even a barefoot path. There is also an environmental education centre and a cafeteria. In the lower zone the park also has infrastructure for visitors who are disabled. If you're up for a hike, the El Peumo trail is a good option; it is of medium difficulty and lasts about four hours. After this wonderful day in nature, you will be taken back to your hotel.



BIKE TOUR THROUGH SANTIAGO

 (Half day)

Change your perspective and discover the lively metropolis of Santiago by bike! During this half-day excursion your bilingual guide will lead you through the extensive tree-lined parks and typical neighbourhoods of the Chilean capital. On your way, you will visit important sights and learn about history, culture and daily life. Different itineraries are offered in the morning and in the afternoon. Sunset excursions in the early evening can be arranged as well. We will organize the perfect bike tour for you according to your interests and physical condition!

LOCAL LIFE AND MARKETS MORNING BIKE TOUR

 (Half day)

Here is where idiosyncrasy meets the hustle and bustle of local daily life. Fruit, vegetable and seafood markets, graffiti murals, and Chile's rich cultural and religious history are the focus of this energising tour. This tour isn't a lecture on Chilean culture. It's a hands-on exploration of it through the eyes and ears of a local. By bike, you will be exploring the bohemian Bellavista neighbourhood and the bustling Patronato neighbourhood with stops in the Korean and Middle Eastern districts to explain the waves of immigration into Santiago. Then, cycle on to the largest fruit and produce market in Chile, La Vega Central, where you stroll through the aisles to appreciate the colours and smells of native fruit and vegetables. Last but not least, explore the centre of Santiago with stops at the Central Seafood Market, Plaza de Armas Square and the Museum of Fine Arts.

Around Santiago

BETWEEN MOUNTAINS AND THE OCEAN

Because of its geographically privileged location between mountains and the ocean, the area surrounding the Chilean capital offers interesting hiking trips and tours. Marvel at the Roof of America, as the Aconcagua peak with its almost 7000m altitude is also called, or visit glaciers less than two hours by car from Santiago. From La Campana National Park filled with palm trees you can see the highest mountain in the Andes and the Pacific Ocean in good weather. What other capital has so much diversity in its surroundings?



CLASSIC EXCURSIONS



Full day

- ACONCAGUA – THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN OF THE AMERICAS
- VALLE NEVADO AND THE ANDES
- PORTILLO AND THE ANDES

HIKING TOURS



Full day

- TREKKING TO MORADO GLACIER LAGOON
- LA CAMPANA NATIONAL PARK
- CAJON DE MAIPO

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES



Full day

- VISIT TO PABLO NERUDA'S HOME IN ISLA NEGRA
- WORLD HERITAGE SITE SEWELL - ABANDONED COPPER MINE CITY

NEW



ACONCAGUA – THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN OF THE AMERICAS

(Full day)

This tour leads through the breathtaking mountain landscape of the Andes, taking you close to the Aconcagua. At 6,957m/22,856ft, it is the highest mountain on the American continent. It lies on the Argentinean side of the border, about 160km/100mi northeast of Santiago. Numerous view points on the drive there provide opportunities for photo stops, for example at the winter sports resort of Portillo located close to the Argentinean border. There is a unique view of the summits of Ojos del Agua (4,239m/13,908ft) and La Parva (4,852m/15,919ft) from the resort, as well as the mountain lake Laguna del Inca. A short distance beyond the Argentinean border, you will reach the natural bridge of the Puente del Inca, where you will have a terrific view of Aconcagua and the high Andean panorama all around. The route back to Santiago through the Aconcagua Valley leads past giant fruit orchards and vineyards.



VALLE NEVADO AND THE ANDES

(Full day)

Your tour guide will collect you from your hotel and accompany you during this excursion into the Andes. The drive of around 60km/37mi to Valle Nevado (Snowy Valley), set at 300m/984ft above sea level, follows the Mapocho upriver on a serpentine road with beautiful views. Valle Nevado, in the heart of the Andean mountain chain, is still white during late spring, when the snow in other valleys has long since melted – hence its name. This is also where South America’s most advanced ski centre is located (ski season is from mid-June to mid-September). There are wonderful views onto the glacial summit of Cerro Plomo (5,430m/17,816ft) and many other mighty mountains that reach heights of almost 6,000m/19,686ft. With a bit of luck, condors can also be spotted here, majestically circling the skies above their natural habitat.



PORTILLO AND THE ANDES

☀️ (Full day)

This tour takes you high into the Andes, to the ski centre of Portillo. Very close to the Argentinean border, the centre is located in a high Andean valley set between the summits of Ojos de Agua (4,239m/14,203ft) and La Parva (4,852m/15,919ft). The Aconcagua (6,957m/22,826ft), America's highest mountain, is also very close by. Portillo offers first-class snow and skiing conditions between June and September. Throughout the whole year, the views of the surrounding mountains and the highland lake of Laguna del Inca set in this barren mountain landscape are captivating. The drive back to Santiago through the Aconcagua Valley leads past huge fruit plantations and vineyards.

TREKKING TO MORADO GLACIER LAGOON

☀️ (Full day)

This hiking excursion will take you deep into the Andes, to the end of the Maipo Valley. A wonderful view onto the San José Volcano (5,856m/19,213ft) is seen during the drive to the starting point of your hike. This hike through the barren beauty of the high Andes takes you as far as to the lagoon of the Morado Glacier, formed by a glacial tongue whose ice calves into the water and floats there as ice floe. The terrain rises gently during the hike. After a midday lunch stop at the lagoon, the hike resumes back to the bus that will return you to Santiago.

INFO: This excursion is offered from October to May. Due to the altitude, the five to six-hour hike requires good physical condition.





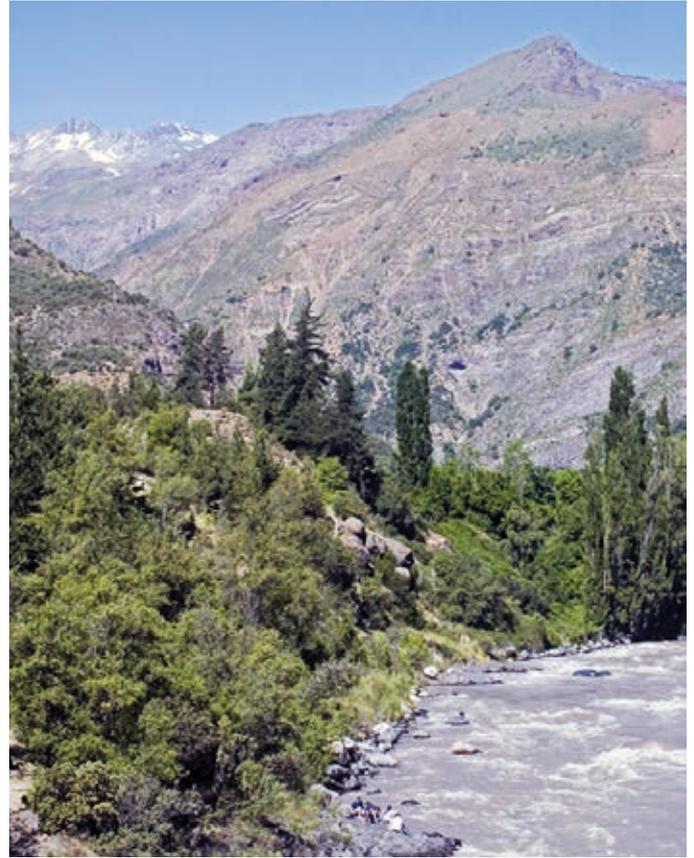
LA CAMPANA NATIONAL PARK

☀️ (Full day)

Your guide will take you from your hotel in Santiago to La Campana National Park, named after the mountain of La Campana (1910m/6,266ft). The park is one of the few protected, still primitive zones in central Chile. It is the habitat for many animal and plant species of (mainly) the central regions of Chile, which were explored by Darwin. In 1985, the park was declared a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve due to its rich biodiversity.

During an easy two-and-a-half-hour hike, you will see the special highlight - the palm forests in the Ocoa sector in the north of the park. At the end of spring, the palms begin to show their yellow flowers, which then fall and cover the ground. Later, in the summer, green spherical fruits grow, which turn radiant yellow when they ripen.

After this hiking tour you will drive back to Santiago.



CAJON DE MAIPO

☀️ (Full day)

Just outside the city of Santiago is the Cajón el Maipo, a high Andean mountain valley that is an ideal destination for hiking and outdoor activities of all kinds. We are happy to put together a guided walking route according to your interests.



VISIT TO PABLO NERUDA'S HOME IN ISLA NEGRA

☀️ (Full day)

On this private guided tour you visit the picturesque beach house of the famous Chilean poet and diplomat Pablo Neruda in Isla Negra. Though the name suggests otherwise, the quiet village is not on an island, but on the beautiful Pacific coast south of Valparaíso and steps away from the ocean. The dark sandy beach with its rocks protruding into the water and the lofty pine trees behind the fabulously beautiful property were of inspiration to the Nobel laureate in literature. With its wonderful view into the vastness of the Pacific Ocean, it was the perfect hideaway from the hustle and bustle of the city and a retreat for writing.

Neruda was also a passionate collector, and his collections impressively decorate his house, which is furnished with incredible creativity and attention to detail. Here you will find collections of figureheads, antique bottles, masks of African natives, marine animals, art, and objects washed ashore by the ocean.

It was also a place where Neruda invited friends to his legendary parties. He and his wife Matilda are buried in front of the house, overlooking the Pacific. If you walk through the garden, you may be lucky enough to spot pelican swarms along the coast.



WORLD HERITAGE SITE SEWELL - ABANDONED COPPER MINE CITY

 (Full day)

Experience the legendary uninhabited mining city of Sewell situated in the middle of the Andean Mountains at an altitude of between 2,000 and 2,250 metres. This mining town was constructed to give shelter from the extreme conditions and housing to the miners and workers of the copper mine El Teniente and their families. With more than 100 years of history, Sewell was declared a world heritage site by UNESCO due to its important contribution to copper history in Chile, its rich cultural value and its perfect construction and architecture. You will depart from Santiago and be driven to Sewell, about 150 km from the capital. Along the famous Carretera del Cobre (Copper Road) you will be surrounded by the mountains and granted a fantastic panoramic view. Once in the mining

NEW

town you will learn more about its history and can admire the construction and stories hidden inside the deserted houses. On our way back to Santiago you will have lunch in the city of Rancagua.

NOTE: The tour can be suspended due to bad weather conditions or by CODELCO. Clothes must be appropriate for walking - no high heels or open shoes.

Valparaíso

WORLD HERITAGE CITY WITH CHARME

The historic city of Valparaíso is home to Chile's Congress and Senate, which was relocated here after democracy was re-established in Chile in 1989. Its colourfully painted houses spread chaotically across its many hills, providing a highly photogenic setting that gives the city its unique flair.

The upper and lower parts of the city are connected by 16 narrow gauge elevators built at the turn of the 19th century, which still transport passengers daily. The historic city centre with its colonial architecture was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2003. Its inhabitants are as colourful as its houses: an interesting mix of fishermen, students, tourists, businessmen, and port labourers, who all patronise the same humble fish restaurants alongside the port. Musicians often work the tables there, singing the praises of Valparaíso, love and the sea.



CLASSIC EXCURSIONS



Half day

- CITY TOUR VALPARAISO



Full day

- ISLA NEGRA AND VALPARAISO

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES



Half day

- MOVE LIKE A LOCAL



Full day

- STREET ART AND HISTORY
- CITY TOUR SHALOM CHILE - JEWISH CULTURE IN VIÑA DEL MAR AND VALPARAISO

NEW

CULINARY EXPERIENCES



Add-on

- RAULI TASTING
- ROBLE TASTING
- CAOBA TASTING



CITY TOUR VALPARAISO

☀️ (Half day)

You will be met by your guide in the morning, who will accompany you during this half-day tour through Valparaíso. The historic city of Valparaíso is Chile's oldest port. It is also home to the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, which moved here from the capital after 1989, when democracy and hence the national Congress were re-established.

The city's many hills are a multi-coloured panorama of painted houses crowding every nook and cranny. They provide a spectacular backdrop and also ensure Valparaíso's unique flair. There is a good reason why the historic city centre of Valparaíso, with its fine 19th century architecture, was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list. The upper and lower sections of the city are connected by 16 funicular elevators that were built at the turn of the 19th century and still provide service to this day. During your city tour, you will travel to a viewing point by one of the elevators, plus visit the parliamentary building and Plaza Sotomayor's memorial to the heroes of the War of the Pacific.

ISLA NEGRA AND VALPARAISO

☀️ (Full day)

First, you will travel to the coastal settlement of Isla Negra, where Pablo Neruda's creatively picturesque beach house stands. Neruda is Chile's most famous author, a Nobel Prize winner and one of the most translated writers of the 20th century. He held several diplomatic posts during his lifetime, including the Chilean Consul in France. Apart from being a poet and a diplomat, Neruda was also a passionate collector, memorably illustrated by his house, which he decorated with unbelievable creativity and a love of detail. The house offers wonderful views over the cliffs and the sea, and was Neruda's refuge from a hectic city life and his writing retreat. Neruda and his wife Matilde are both buried in front of the house in a gravesite overlooking the Pacific.

Afterwards, you will continue on the coastal street to the historic city of Valparaíso, Chile's oldest port and home to the country's Senate and Chamber of Deputies, which moved here from the capital in 1989, when Chilean democratic governance was re-established. The city's many hills are covered with a multi-coloured panorama of painted houses crowding every nook and cranny, ensuring a spectacular backdrop to your visit. During your tour, you will see the historic city centre, whose fine 19th century architecture displays one of the reasons for the city's inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage list. You will also visit the parliamentary building and Plaza Sotomayor's memorial to the heroes of the War of the Pacific.



MOVE LIKE A LOCAL

🕒 (Half day)

During this extensive city walking tour, you will become acquainted with the history of Valparaíso while exploring the harbour city's adventurous geography by foot and by public transport – just like the residents! First, you will take the metro to the main square and adjacent port, from where you will continue to the southern city district of Playa Ancha. Then, you will explore the beautiful Paseo 21 de Mayo with its wonderful view and learn about the British immigrants who lived there. One of the historic funicular elevators will bring you back down to the city centre. You will then take the trolley bus to the main square, Sotomayor. Afterwards, you will visit the hills of Cerro Alegre and Cerro Concepcion, UNESCO World Heritage sites. After a stroll along Paseo Dimalow, you will return to the city centre descending in the funicular Reina Victoria. Along the way, you will be provided with a snack to recharge your batteries.



STREET ART AND HISTORY TOUR

☀️ (Full day)

This is an amazing option for those who want to cover as much ground as possible in one day, seeing both graffiti and learning about other important aspects of Valparaíso. We begin by visiting the Playa Ancha Hill and see some great graffiti there, as well as Paseo 21 de Mayo and Av. Gran Bretaña, where the British immigrants lived during the turn of the century and throughout the early 1900's. We then go to Barrio Puerto and see the oldest area of Valparaíso and its street art. In this area, we will visit some of the old historical bars and maybe enter a century-old building or two before moving on to Sotomayor Square, where you'll get a full explanation of the landmarks and buildings in the area. We continue our tour with a visit to Cerro Alegre and Cerro Concepción, the fine arts museum (closed on Mondays), and then several more colourful hills, all with superb graffiti by great artists. At Cerro Polanco, you will see some of the amazing pieces painted during

the last graffiti festival. Here we'll take the elevator to the top of the hill and make our way down by foot through the hill's main streets.



CITY TOUR SHALOM CHILE - JEWISH CULTURE IN VIÑA DEL MAR AND VALPARAISO

NEW

☀️ (Full day)

Valparaíso is one of the most important port cities in the country. During this excursion you will get to know some of the city's interesting sights such as the pier Muelle Prat and the Plaza Sotomayor. You will also visit places where Jewish life in Chile was born and still takes place today, including the Plaza Jerusalém and the synagogue Max Nordau, founded in 1916 and which is home to the oldest (and very well-preserved) Torah in Chile. A walk along Victoria Street and Francia Avenue will take you back to when the Jewish community called these once jewellery store lined streets their home in the 1920s.

NOTE: On Saturdays it is not possible to enter certain synagogues during the tour. On religious holidays such as Yom Kippur, Rosh ha-Shana or Passover there are no guided tours.



As an alternative to visiting a winery, you will get to know a variety of Chilean wines and experience new flavors at these private wine tastings.

RAULI TASTING

 (Add-on)

This tasting provides you with an understanding of the basics of Chilean wine and its history.

You will taste some of the more well-known varieties of Chile, such as Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Merlot, Carmenere, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Syrah.

ROBLE TASTING

 (Add-on)

This tasting focuses on the sophistication of the Chilean wine industry, which began in the late 70's and early 80's and allowed for new varieties to be produced. This tasting includes varieties such as:

Viognier, Sauvignon Gris, Pinot Grigio, Moscatel, Pinot Noir, Cinsault, Pais, Carmenere, Malbec, and Carignan.

CAOBA TASTING

 (Add-on)

This is our top tier tasting and focuses on the advanced wine production experience in Chile.

This tasting includes advanced wines and will give you an appreciation as to why Chilean wine is so highly regarded worldwide.

Varieties are chosen based upon the availability of wines in the cellar.



In the middle of the Pacific Ocean lies Rapa Nui, name which means “the navel of the world”. Barely 3,800km from the mainland and 4,200km from Tahiti, Easter Island is the place on earth furthest from any other inhabited location. Long isolated from the rest of the world, this less than 25km long and 25km wide island has a rich history, art and language. The island has the shape of a triangle and is home to extinct volcanic cones on each of the three island peaks. Because of its small size and rich cultural heritage, the entire island is a kind of open-air museum with about 1,000 Moais (statues), as well as places of worship and old cave dwellings that are open for viewing. A large part of Easter Island is now a national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Rapa Nui National Park was established in 1935 to protect archaeological sites throughout the island. Today the park covers almost the entire island.

Hanga Roa is the small capital of Rapa Nui. Most of the island’s approximately 4,000 inhabitants live here.

Easter Island

"THE NAVEL OF THE WORLD"





CLASSIC EXCURSIONS

Half day

- AHU AKIVI AND PUNA PAU
- IN SEARCH OF THE BIRDMEN – RANO KAU AND ORONGO
- SUNSET AT TAHAI

Full day

- RAPA NUI HIGHLIGHTS

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Half day

- RAPA NUI WEDDING RECEPTION
- RAPA NUI TRADITIONAL BODYPAINTING
- FOLKLORIC SHOW AND «UMU» MEAL



AHU AKIVI AND PUNA PAU

(Half day)

Your first stop on this excursion is Ahu Akivi, one of the few ahus not located by the sea. Its seven resurrected Moais were placed according to the equinox, which indicates the advanced knowledge of astronomy once held on Rapa Nui. You will continue to the Puna Pau quarry, where the headdresses made of red stone that were set on many Moais were produced.

The tour ends with your transfer back to the hotel.



IN SEARCH OF THE BIRDMAN - RANO KAU AND ORONGO

(Half day)

During this half-day excursion, you will discover Orongo, the ceremonial site for the Birdman Cult, whose stone houses are set right by the circular crater of the Rano Kau Volcano. The Birdman Cult emerged after the collapse of the Moai culture and was specifically focused on fertility. First, at the foot of the volcano you will visit an interesting cave with cult rock paintings. Later, from the rim of the crater you will be able to savour a spectacular view overlooking the crater's large lake, as well as the sea and the three Motu Islands. These small islands were the focus of the young men chosen during the ceremony of the Birdman Cult held at Orongo. One individual per clan swam out to the Motu Niu Island to steal the first swallow's egg of the year. The winning clan was allowed to nominate Rapa Nui's king for the following year. The tour ends with a transfer to your hotel.



SUNSET AT TAHAI

☀️ (Half day)

Depending on the season, you are picked up between 18.30 and 20.30 hrs at your hotel (about 1.5 hours before sunset). Your guide will accompany you to the ceremonial site of Tahai, where there are three restored ahus with Moais of different shapes and sizes. When the sun goes down, the Moais turn into black shadows in front of a red-orange sky – a magical moment!

After sunset, you will be transferred back to your hotel or to a restaurant of your choice.





RAPA NUI HIGHLIGHTS

☀️ (Full day)

This tour goes in search of the secrets of Rapa Nui's culture and begins with a visit to the Moai platforms of Ahu Vaihu and Ahu Akahanga on the south coast of the island. Both have been left untouched, with their Moais still lying on the ground where they fell during the mysterious destruction of the island's ceremonial sites. Over time, the statues' ahus (ceremonial platforms where the Moai were originally placed) have become overgrown with grass. Afterwards, the tour continues to Rano Raraku, an extinct volcano of trass stone. This is perhaps the most intriguing sight on the island as the Moais were cut from its quarry. Giant Moai sculptures lie scattered all over the volcano's hillsides, ready for a transportation that never took place. Higher up, even more Moais can be found in various stages of completion, some still connected to the rock, as if they were abandoned from one day to the next.

The next ceremonial centre is Ahu Tongariki, the largest and perhaps most beautiful of the island's ahus. Fifteen resurrected Moais were placed on this platform; they overlook the island with their backs to the Pacific Ocean.

From here, you drive north to Ahu Te Pito Kura (known as 'The Red Navel' or 'Navel of the World'), a large smooth round stone believed to have magical powers. According to legend, King Hotu Matua himself brought this stone here during the earliest occupation of Easter Island.

The last stop on the itinerary of this exciting day is the beach at Anakena, where King Hotu Matua, accompanied by the first Polynesian settlers, landed. The fine white sand is a great place to relax, and here you can take a refreshing swim in the Pacific before being taken back to your hotel.



RAPA NUI WEDDING RECEPTION

(Half day)

Couples looking to seal their love in a memorable and exotic fashion can now do so in a Rapa Nui-style wedding ceremony on Easter Island. The experience begins when the couple, wreathed in flower garlands, is transported from their hotel to the island's traditional wedding spot to be separately prepared for the ceremony. Both are adorned in all-natural body paint and clothed in colourful island attire. Then, during the ceremony, an elder pays homage to the natural cycle of life and to the bride and groom's ancestors before joining the couple for life. Traditional singers and dancers lead the couple and their guests in a joyful celebration and champagne reception, with a professional photographer on hand to record the unforgettable day.



RAPA NUI TRADITIONAL BODYPAINTING

(Half day)

Do the exotic paintings of the Rapa Nui natives pique your curiosity? This Easter Island excursion allows you to dress yourself in traditional, all-natural Rapa Nui body paint while learning all about its history and meanings. The photos you'll take home will be sure to stimulate plenty of conversation about this remote island and its rich cultural history!

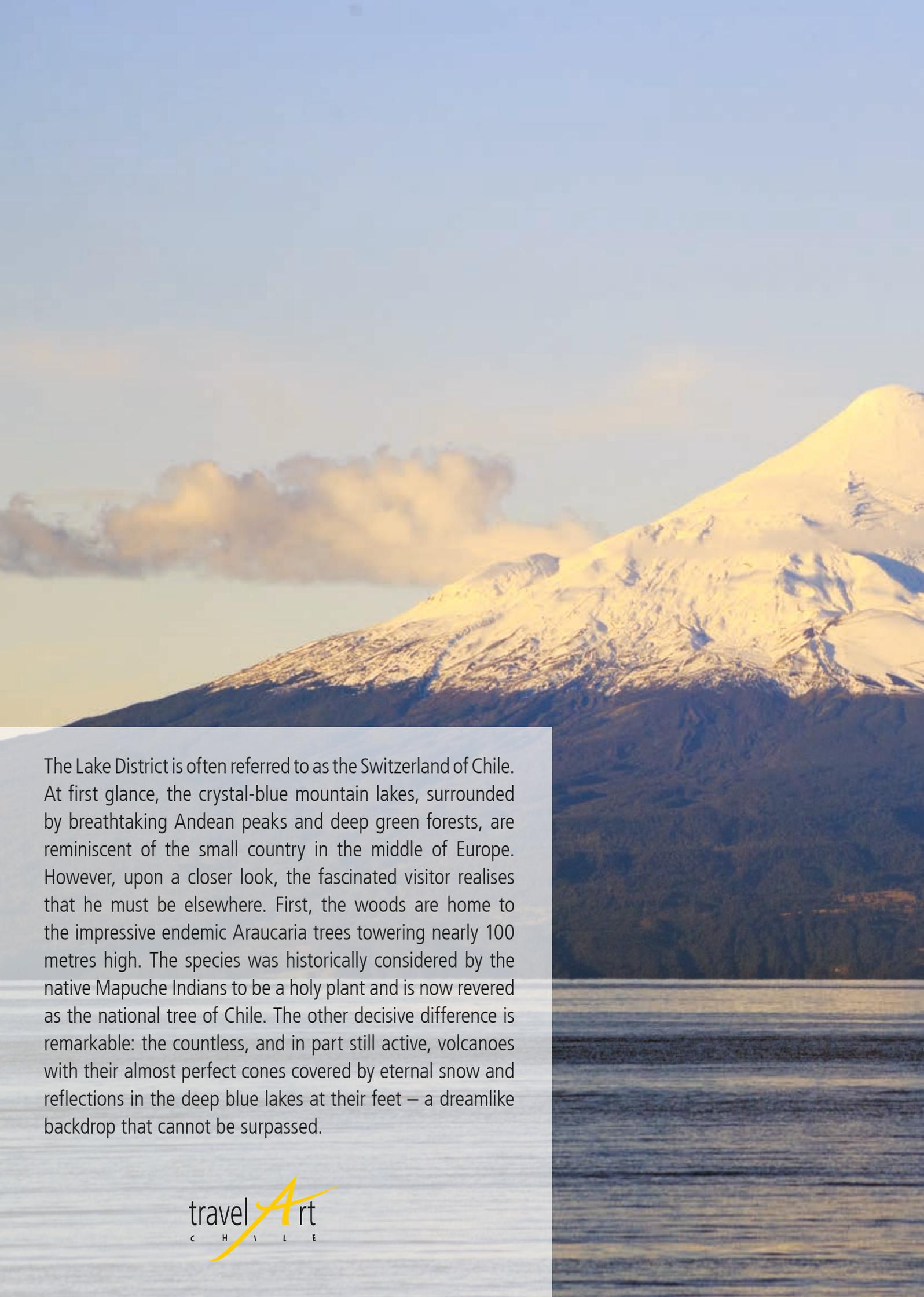


FOLKLORIC SHOW AND «UMU» MEAL

 (Half day)

The traditional dance and folkloric show Te Ra Ai, presented in the native Rapa Nui language and English, introduces you to the culture, history, food, and stories of the island and the Polynesian people. The name Te Ra Ai is adapted from 'Ko te Ra'ai', meaning "where the sun is born". After you arrive, a meal will be prepared for you in a traditional earth oven (umo) along with drinks. After enjoying this delicious dish, you'll be delighted by – and, if you wish, actively join in – the entertaining dance and music spectacle of Te Ra Ai.





The Lake District is often referred to as the Switzerland of Chile. At first glance, the crystal-blue mountain lakes, surrounded by breathtaking Andean peaks and deep green forests, are reminiscent of the small country in the middle of Europe. However, upon a closer look, the fascinated visitor realises that he must be elsewhere. First, the woods are home to the impressive endemic Araucaria trees towering nearly 100 metres high. The species was historically considered by the native Mapuche Indians to be a holy plant and is now revered as the national tree of Chile. The other decisive difference is remarkable: the countless, and in part still active, volcanoes with their almost perfect cones covered by eternal snow and reflections in the deep blue lakes at their feet – a dreamlike backdrop that cannot be surpassed.

Lake District



Northern Lake District

PUCÓN

One of the most popular holiday destinations for Chileans is the area around Lake Villarrica and the still active volcano of its namesake. It is a hikers' paradise, as well as perfect for many other outdoor activities, and is continuously attracting more and more international travellers. Where else could you easily climb a volcano and have a close look at its bubbling lava masses, meanwhile taking in the view of countless other volcanic peaks on the horizon? The rivers are perfect for rafting, and Lake Villarrica is ideal for all kinds of water sports. Plus, the many hot tubs that surround the small, Swiss-style town of Pucón allow for a relaxing rest in natural space. In winter, you can ski on the slopes of the volcano or snowshoe through the fairytale Araucaria forests.

HIKING TOURS



Half day

- VILLARRICA LAVA CAVES



Full day

- FIRE AND ICE: CLIMBING THE VILLARRICA VOLCANO
- IN THE LAND OF ARAUCARIAS – HIKING THE HUERQUEHUE NATIONAL PARK
- NATIONAL PARK CONGUILLIO

ACTIVE TOURS



Half day

- RAFTING TRANCURA

HOT SPRINGS



Full day

- OJOS DE CABURGUA AND TERMAS DE HUIFE
- RELAXING AT GEOMÉTRICAS

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES



Half day

- VISIT THE MAPUCHE-FARM KILAUFU





VILLARRICA LAVA CAVES

🕒 (Half day)

At only 12km/7mi from Pucón is the entrance to the 'underworld' of the Villarrica lava caves: a natural stone monument created by various eruptions of this very active volcano. The tunnels were created about two million years ago when the top layer of a massive lava stream coming out of the Villarrica Volcano began to solidify after contact with cool air, while the layers underneath continued to flow. Today, you can go up to 300m/984ft into the caves and see a lava stream from the inside.

This approximately one-hour excursion is led by an experienced tour guide. Afterwards, you have the opportunity to enjoy the surrounding park. Vehicle transfer back to your hotel is provided.

FIRE AND ICE: CLIMBING THE VILLARRICA VOLCANO

🕒 (Full day)

An early morning drive takes you and your tour guide to the Rucapillan ski centre, located at 1,400m/4,593ft, within Villarrica National Park. From there, you have the option either to set off by foot or to save an additional 400m/1,312ft of elevation by taking a chairlift. The ascent to the crater using the chairlift requires around 4-5 hours and takes 5-6 hours without it. Several short rest stops are made on the way up. The reward for making this great ascent is the spectacular view into the crater from the volcano's summit, plus the view of the many surrounding volcanoes. With a little luck, you can even see lava bubbling at the bottom of the crater. At around 3 pm, you will begin the descent using a rather unique method: gliding down the volcano on ice slides and in special outdoor gear.

NOTE: This excursion is dependent on weather conditions and the level of volcanic activity. The ascent requires good physical conditioning. Relevant equipment, including crampons and ice picks, are provided.





IN THE LAND OF ARAUCARIAS – HIKING THE HUERQUEHUE NATIONAL PARK

☀️ (Full day)

This day trip to Huerquehue National Park, in the north-east of Pucón, gives you the opportunity to hike through a beautiful ancient temperate rainforest. The first part of the hike is relatively steep (but well worth it for the view on the way down) as you head towards the valley and Caburga Lake. Along the way, you pass by the mighty Nido del Águila (Eagle's Nest) Waterfall where, depending on the time of year, you might see Chile's national flower in blossom: the dark red copihue. The forested mountain saddle track leads you from each Araucaria lined lagoon to the next. The trees – almost unchanged since the time of the dinosaurs – are native to Chile and give the local region its name.

NOTE: This hike takes around five hours.

NATIONAL PARK CONGUILLIO

☀️ (Full day)

This day trip goes to the Conguillio National Park, with its imposing and active Llama Volcano, which towers above the entire landscape. Visitors have the opportunity to explore huge lava fields before hiking to the Sierra Nevada mountain chain. From there, hikers have fantastic views towards the Llama Volcano and many surrounding lakes that dot the countryside among the deeply green temperate rainforest. The umbrella-shaped Araucaria trees that give the region their name are seen here. These trees, which have survived almost unchanged since the time of the dinosaurs, are native to Chile and rare to see outside the South American country. In the late afternoon, you will return to Pucón.



RAFTING TRANCURA

☀️ (Half day)

Rafting on the Río Trancura is an opportunity for fun and low-risk adventure in a beautiful natural landscape. The starting point is around 15km/9mi from Pucón. On arrival, you are handed your equipment, which includes a wetsuit, windbreaker, life vest, helmet, and paddle. Once guidance on rafting techniques and safety measure instructions have been provided, you are off on a wild trip down the river, through rapids up to class 3. After about one-and-a-half hours of adventure, you reach the end point, from where you are provided transportation back to Pucón.

NOTE: Previous experience is not necessary. Rafting guides and a safety boat are included in every tour.



OJOS DE CABURGUA AND TERMAS DE HUIFE

☀️ (Full day)

The first stop on this day trip is a visit to the Ojos de Caburgua (Caburgua's Eyes), east of Pucón. These "eyes" are naturally formed round water basins that are fed by waterfalls from the Río Caburgua, which comes from the lake of the same name. Their wonderfully deep blue waters create a beautiful contrast to the surrounding green forest. Afterwards, the journey continues through a volcano-lined landscape, following the Río Liucura as far as the Termas de Huife hotel. Three large pools with temperatures ranging from 38°C/100°F to 58°C/136°F invite visitors to relax, plus massage treatments and a sauna complete the perfect the range of spa offerings. Transfer back to the hotel is provided in the late afternoon.



RELAXING AT GEOMÉTRICAS

☀️ (Full day)

The Termas Geométricas (geometric thermal baths) are just the right destination if you want to relax between two hiking days. The drive to Coñaripe, passing by the southern shore of Lake Villarrica and later the northern shore of Lake Calafquen, is already worthwhile because of the beautiful landscape. The Termas Geométricas are a very special place: In a previously inaccessible gorge in the middle of deep forest, more than sixty 80°C/176°F hot springs bubble up. In this unspoiled environment, twenty rustic, geometrically shaped pools with temperatures ranging from 35°C/95°F to 45°C/113°F invite you to bathe and relax. Between the pools, there are wooden footbridges and bridges. During the day you can enjoy the wild landscape of rock and forest and in the evening lights and candles are placed on the footbridges, creating a romantic ambience. On the way there or back, stop in the picturesque village of Villarrica for a walk by the lake.



VISIT THE MAPUCHE FARM KILALEUFU

🕒 (Half day)

From Pucón, you drive east along the volcanoes Villarrica, Quetrupillán and Lanin to the Mapuche Farm Kilaleufu to get acquainted with the Mapuche culture. Kilaleufu ("house between three rivers") is located 25km from Pucón and offers you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of the locals amidst a fascinating landscape. Here you can relax and partake in various activities. For lunch, typical Mapuche specialties are served with organic ingredients from the farm, as well as fresh bread and an asado (barbecue). In the afternoon, you will be provided return transportation to Pucón. Lunch is included in this visit.



Southern Lake District

PUERTO VARAS

Magnificent scenery and a unique plant and animal world are to be discovered in the Southern Lake District, whether by hiking, climbing, rafting, riding, sailing, kayaking, fishing, or countless other activities.

Surrounded by the many snow-covered volcanic peaks, visitors find themselves in a fairytale landscape. The region also has plenty to offer in terms of its cuisine, which makes use of the best the sea has to offer: salmon, crabs, mussels, king crabs, oysters, and much more. It offers something for everybody, no matter if you are looking for an active holiday or to simply enjoy the wonderful landscape with a nice glass of wine.

When you wake up in Puerto Varas and look over Lake Llanquihue, you might think this city was built for aesthetic rather than economic reasons. The city was founded by German settlers in 1854, and German culture is still evident throughout the region, for example in the wide range of delicious cakes you can find here.



CLASSIC EXCURSIONS

Half day

- CITY TOUR PUERTO MONTT AND PUERTO VARAS
- CITY TOUR PUERTO MONTT AND LAHUEN ÑADI PARK
- CITY TOUR FRUTILLAR

Full day

- EXCURSION TO PETROHUE FALLS
- PETROHUE FALLS AND OSORNO VOLCANO
- CATAMARAN TRIP ACROSS LAKE TODOS LOS SANTOS
- LAKE LLANQUIHUE ROUND TRIP
- IDYLL AT THE RELONCAVÍ FJORD
- EXCURSION TO PUYEHUE NATIONAL PARK
- LAKE CROSSING FROM PUERTO VARAS AND BARILOCHE

Add-on

- VISIT THE TEATRO DEL LAGO FRUTILLAR

ACTIVE TOURS

Half day

- RAFTING ALONG RIO PETROHUE

Full day

- A DAY IN A FAIRY-TALE FOREST – TREKKING IN ALERCE ANDINO NATIONAL PARK
- HIKE «EL SOLITARIO» TO PETROHUE WATERFALLS
- SEA KAYAK AT RELONCAVI FJORD
- FLY FISHING

WILDLIFE WATCHING

Half day

- BIRD WATCHING IN THE SENDA NATIVA NATURE RESERVE

NEW

CULINARY EXPERIENCES

Half day

- PRIVATE COOKING CLASS
- HOMEMADE PATAGONIAN LUNCH

NEW



CITY TOUR PUERTO MONTT AND PUERTO VARAS

 (Half day)

You will be picked up at the hotel and start your tour of the city. Founded by German settlers in 1853, Puerto Montt is also known as the 'Gateway to Patagonia'. This is where the Carretera Austral begins and where ships set off for Tierra del Fuego, the Magellan Strait and to Patagonia's glaciers. During your city tour, we will show you the main square right by the sea, with its cathedral built of wood, the memorial to the German settlers, the town hall, and other representative buildings.

Afterwards, you will travel north to the small town of Puerto Varas.

Puerto Varas is a small, picturesque city of about 25,000 inhabitants situated on the southwest shore of Lake Llanquihue. In the 19th century, it became home to thousands of German immigrants, whose heritage is reflected in the city's distinctive wood architecture and its inhabitants' love of German pastries and cakes ('kuchen'). Known as "The City of Roses," Puerto Varas has a compact and nicely walkable city centre. This tour will provide a basic overview of the city's primary reference points, restaurants and shops, before allowing you to explore further on your own – or perhaps just to relax in one of the many cafés or sit by the lake to admire the view.

After, the tour, you will be taken back to the hotel.

CITY TOUR PUERTO MONTT AND LAHUEN ÑADI PARK

 (Half day)

You will be picked up at your hotel in Puerto Varas and first go on a short city tour of Puerto Montt. Founded by German settlers in 1853, this city is also known as the 'Gateway to Patagonia'. This is where the Carretera Austral begins and where ships set off for Tierra del Fuego, the Magellan Strait and to Patagonia's glaciers. During your city tour, we will show you the main square right by the sea, with its cathedral built of wood, the memorial to the German settlers, the town hall, and other representative buildings. Afterwards, we follow the coastal promenade to the port of Angelmó and its colourful small boats anchored in front of the island of Tenglo.

The tour continues with a brief excursion to Lahuen Ñadi Natural Park, near Puerto Montt. This park is home to the regional emblem, the alerce tree, which can live for up to 3,000 years and reach 60m/197ft in height. Short paths lead through the park's lush Valdivian rainforest, perfect for a memorable stroll.



CITY TOUR FRUTILLAR

(Half day)

This half-day tour will introduce you to the small town of Frutillar set on the shores of Lake Llanquihue. The carefully restored houses from the German settlement era with their brightly coloured flower decorations give visitors the impression of having travelled back in time. In the interesting open-air museum, you can also see restored houses dating from German colonization. German cake specialties can be savoured everywhere in Frutillar.

NOTE: *Chilean museums are closed on Mondays.*



VISIT THE TEATRO DEL LAGO FRUTILLAR

(Add-on)

You will visit the impressive theatre Teatro Del Lago in Frutillar and can have a look backstage. This unique theatre was especially built for the yearly festival Semana Musical de Frutillar (Frutillar Music Week). The architecture is inspired by the traditional stables with wooden shingles that can be found throughout the region.





EXCURSION TO PETROHUE FALLS

☀️ (Full day)

This excursion takes you from the lakeside city of Puerto Varas, through the beautiful surroundings of Lake Llanquihue, to the dramatic Petrohué Falls. The day's drive begins along the southern shore of the lake, from whence, in good weather, you'll have a spectacular view of the Osorno and Calbuco Volcanoes. There will be a brief stop in Los Riscos to admire a group of llamas in an outdoor compound, before continuing through the small village of Ensenada to the wild Saltos de Petrohué. This series of rapids and low waterfalls along the Petrohué River have carved their way, over thousands of years, through the volcanic rock of Osorno Volcano, eroding and shaping it into fantastic forms. Several paths wind through the lush forest near the sparkling, dancing falls, making for a wonderful stroll.

Following your visit to Petrohué Falls, the excursion continues on to the source of the Petrohué River, All Saints Lake (Lago Todos Los Santos), which stretches almost to the Argentinean border. On your return trip to Puerto Varas, you'll visit the picturesque Green Lake (Laguna Verde), nestled in the verdant forest at the foot of Osorno Volcano. You will return to Puerto Varas in the late afternoon with many memories of a lovely day and, hopefully, with many new pictures on your camera!

PETROHUE FALLS AND OSORNO-VOLCANO

☀️ (Full day)

After breakfast, you will start this all-day tour into the wonderful region surrounding Puerto Varas. Wonderful views of the Osorno and Calbuco Volcanoes await travellers during the drive along Lake Llanquihue.

The first stop of the day is at the wild Saltos de Petrohué, a set of rapids and waterfalls that dance over the impressive formations of lava rocks from the surrounding volcanoes. The waters of the Petrohué River have eroded and shaped these rocks over thousands of years.

The journey continues with a drive up the Osorno Volcano (2,660m/8,727ft). The road ends at an elevation of 1,300m/4,265ft at a mountain cabin, where the unforgettable views include the mighty towering heights of the Osorno Volcano and neighbouring volcanoes, as well as the profoundly blue Llanquihue Lake. During the hike across the volcano's immense lava fields, you will enjoy the panoramic views that improve with every foot of elevation attained. If the weather permits, you can also enjoy the landscape during a chairlift ride. The return to Puerto Varas takes place in the afternoon.



CATAMARAN TRIP ACROSS LAKE TODOS LOS SANTOS

☀️ (Full day)

Departure is in the morning for this all-day tour to the Lake District around Puerto Varas. The journey follows the shore road along Lake Llanquihue, which offers beautiful views of the Osorno and Calbuco Volcanoes.

The first stop of the day is at the Saltos de Petrohué, a set of rapids and waterfalls that dance over impressive rock formations of petrified lava from the surrounding volcanoes. It is the waters of the Petrohué River that have eroded and shaped these rocks over thousands of years. The catamaran that will take you across the Todos los Santos Lake sets off from the jetty at Petrohué. The All Saints Lake is embraced by high, densely forested mountains, and the panoramic view is dominated by the perfect cone of the Osorno Volcano. During the journey, you will pass small islands and waterfalls, as well as the steep Puntiagudo Volcano reaching into the sky. Your destination is Puella, set in the heart of the Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park. Here you can set off on a hike through the dense Valdivian temperate rainforest to the Cascada de la Novia' (Bride's Waterfall), and there is also a chance to become acquainted with the many indigenous trees and plants on an interesting educational footpath. The catamaran returns to Petrohué during the late afternoon, from where the journey back to Puerto Varas is completed by bus or car.



LAKE LLANQUIHUE ROUND TRIP

☀️ (Full day)

During this tour, you will circle Lake Llanquihue. At 870 sq km/336 sq mi, it is Chile's second largest lake. To begin, the journey from Puerto Varas follows the southern shore of the lake to the small settlement of Ensenada, from where there is a wonderful view of the three volcanoes of Puntiagudo, Osorno and Calbuco. Just a short distance north beyond Ensenada, a stop is made at Laguna Verde (Green Lake). This bay, surrounded by forest and set on the Llanquihue Lake, takes its name from the intensely green colouring of its waters. The journey around the lake continues, interspersed with a stroll, before finally reaching the village of Puerto Octay at the northern end of the lake. From there, the journey continues to Frutillar along the western shore of Lake Llanquihue. During this section of the drive, you will see beautiful wooden houses from the era of German settlements. In Frutillar, the lovingly restored houses with their brightly coloured flower decorations give visitors the impression of having travelled back in time. This is also where you can visit an interesting open-air museum with restored houses from the German colonization era, including furniture from the earliest times of settlement. After visiting Frutillar, you will return to Puerto Varas.



IDYLL AT THE RELONCAVÍ FJORD

(Full day)

You will start off the day by driving along the southern shore of Lake Llanquihue until reaching the small settlement of Ensenada. From there, the journey continues along an idyllic road with panoramic views heading south towards the Reloncaví Fjord. En route, you will see many small wooden houses dotting the green landscape with splashes of colour. Cows graze along the flat shoreline of the fjord, while birds circle in the sky – truly a picture book setting. The destination of this journey is the village of Cochamó, whose small wooden church built of alerce is an additional jewel in the fjord landscape. Here, time seems to stand still, life has a gentle pace and horses remain a common means of transport. In the late afternoon, you will return to Puerto Varas.



EXCURSION TO PUYEHUE NATIONAL PARK

(Full day)

Puyehue National Park was established to protect the region's extensive tracts of temperate evergreen rainforest containing many unique species of flora. The vegetation is extremely dense here, with arrayán (a type of myrtle tree) of unimaginable proportions, centuries-old nothofagus (southern beech), huge ferns, and nalca – a type of rhubarb, which locals eat salted, instead of sweetened. The park's immense green canopy conceals silent lagoons and beautiful hiking trails, while the peaks of the Antillanca and Puyehue Volcanoes (the latter at approximately 2,240m/7,349 ft) soar above. In this region of volcanic activity, natural hot springs bubble to the surface in many locations. At the Termas de Aguas Calientes, the hot springs reach up to 42°C/107°F and make a blissful setting to relax alongside the Río Pichileufu. Near the springs, other outdoor activities abound: for example, you can hike to the beautiful El Pionero viewpoint, or visit the Salto del Indio Waterfall on the Gol Gol River.



LAKE CROSSING FROM PUERTO VARAS TO BARILOCHE

☀️ (Full day)

In the morning you will drive along the shore road of Lake Llanquihue and enjoy breathtaking views of the Osorno and Calbuco volcanoes. The first stop of the day is at the Saltos de Petrohue waterfall, a collection of rapids and waterfalls flowing over impressive formations of lava rock from the surrounding volcanoes. Afterwards a catamaran will depart for the crossing of Lake Todos Los Santos, setting off from the pier at Petrohue. This lake is surrounded by densely forested mountains, and the perfect cone of the Osorno volcano dominates the landscape. During the trip you will pass small islands, waterfalls and the steeply rising peak of the volcano Puntiagudo. Your destination is the small lake port of Peulla in the heart of the Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park. A hike through the dense Valdivian temperate rainforest will take you to the Cascada de la Novia waterfall and introduce you to many indigenous trees and plants alongside the interesting educational path. In the afternoon the journey continues to Argentina

via the Pérez Rosales Pass. During the bus trip your ride will be interrupted several times by lake crossings by boat or catamaran. Everywhere throughout the journey you will have a wonderful panoramic view of the unspoiled Andean Mountains. This isolated route has never been turned into a major highway and can still be travelled in much the same way as the earliest settlers to the region did over a century ago. In the evening you arrive in Puerto Pañuelo at Lake Nahuel Huapi. A short bus ride then takes you to Bariloche.



RAFTING RIO PETROHUE

☀️ (Half day)

The Río Petrohué is the only river to originate in Lake Todos Los Santos. Its class 3 and 4 rapids and turquoise waters that flow along the base of the Osorno and Calbuco Volcanoes are ideal for safe yet exciting rafting in this exquisitely beautiful landscape.

Before setting off, you receive a brief introduction into rafting techniques and are handed your equipment, which includes a wetsuit, windbreaker, life jacket, helmet, and paddle. Then, the wild journey downriver begins and can be rounded off by a swim in the crystal clear waters of the Río Petrohué.

NOTE: Prior experience is not required. A rafting guide and a safety boat are integral to every tour. Snack included.



A DAY IN A FAIRY-TALE FOREST – TREKKING IN ALERCE ANDINO NATIONAL PARK

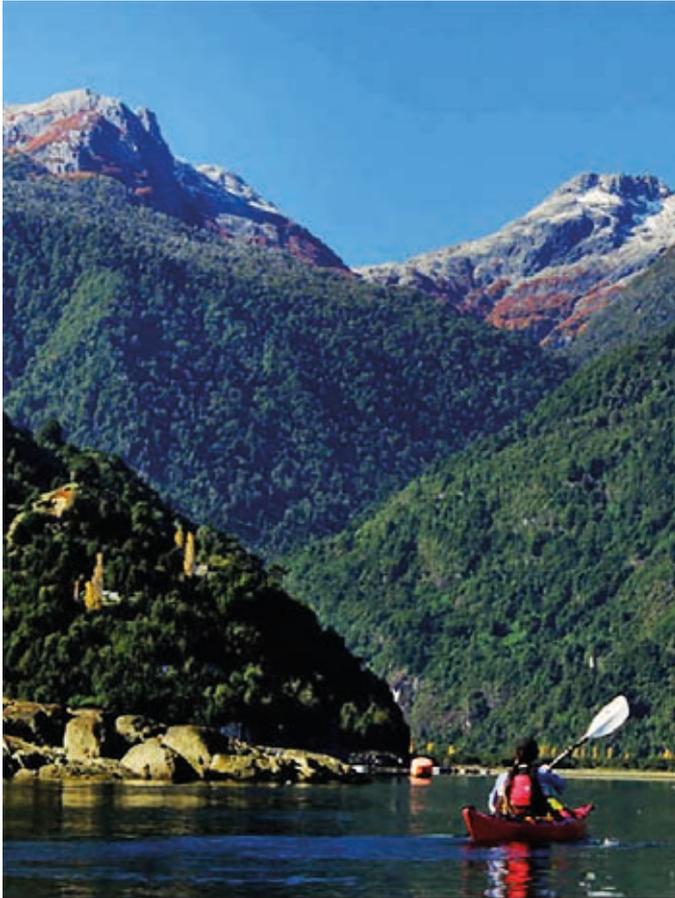
☀️ (Full day)

Spend a day in the Alerce Andino National Park and let yourself be captivated by its primeval, seemingly enchanted forest. The park is located southeast of Puerto Montt at the beginning of the Carretera Austral and covers an area of almost 40,000 hectares. Half of the park is practically untouched Valdivian temperate rainforest, in which around fifty small lakes hide and from which rocky peaks rise up. The park takes its name from the alerce trees, giant conifers that reach straight for the sky and live for several thousand years. A lovely picture is created whenever individual rays of sunshine penetrate the dense greenery, just like light streaming into a cathedral.

HIKE «EL SOLITARIO» AND VISIT PETROHUE WATERFALLS

☀️ (Full day)

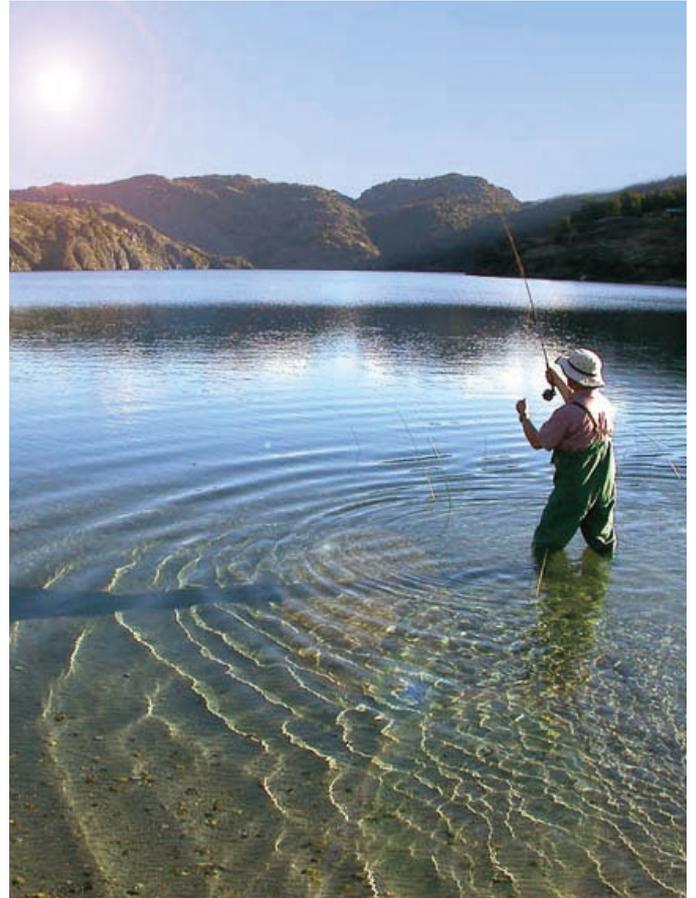
Upon arrival at Vicente Perez Rosales National Park, you will walk approximately 4 miles through temperate rain forest dominated by old nothofagus trees on the Solitario pathway, located at the foot of the Osorno Volcano. The first part of your trail includes a visit to Laguna Verde (a secluded inlet of Lake Llanquihue) and passes through an area that was protected from the last eruption of the Osorno Volcano in 1835. After about one hour of walking, you will reach an area where every year snow melts from the volcano and brings down a layer of volcanic sediment, transforming the area into a lunar landscape. After receiving safety tips from your guide, we cross this area and then re-enter the forest. Visit the volcanic rock and rapids of Petrohué Falls, then enjoy a box lunch before your return drive to Puerto Varas.



SEA KAYAK AT RELONCAVI FJORD

☀️ (Full day)

The day begins with a drive from your hotel in Puerto Varas to the Ko'Kayak headquarters in Ensenada, where you will receive your equipment for the day. Afterwards, you will board your kayak on the Río Petrohué and paddle downstream with the current. You'll observe an unblemished countryside and snow-capped volcanoes, and, with a little bit of luck, you'll spot salmon, cormorants, and kingfishers. Upon reaching Reloncavi Fjord, you will replenish your energy with a picnic lunch on the beach, then start out on your wonderful outing down the fjord. As you paddle, you may see Chilean dolphins, sea lions and many different bird species. Regardless of the wildlife you encounter, the trip through the dramatic fjord is sure to be one you'll remember. From your ending point at the village of Cochamó, you will be taken back to Puerto Varas.



FLY FISHING

☀️ (Full day)

For those who love the tranquility of fishing and beautiful landscapes, the southern lake district of Chile offers ideal opportunities. After receiving an introductory explanation and suitable equipment, you will get into a small boat, go down the river and spend a few hours fly fishing in beautiful scenery.

NOTE: *This is a catch and release fly fishing excursion. No guarantees are made with respect to catching any fish.*

**NEW**

BIRD WATCHING IN THE SENDA NATIVA NATURE RESERVE

🕒 (Half day)

The Senda Nativa Nature Park is located only 16 km from Puerto Varas and is home to a great variety of birds. Whether in the fields or in the forest along the Maullin river, you have the opportunity to observe birds in different ecosystems. Bird watching enthusiasts will surely enjoy their time here. You can discover birds such as the Chucao (*Scelorchilus rubecola*) or listen to the Magellanic woodpecker (*Campephilus magellanicus*). You may also be surprised by the rare sighting of the Des Murs's wiretail (*Sylviorthorhynchus desmursii*). Discover the amazing bird life that these forests hold.



PRIVATE COOKING CLASS

(Half day)

Inal Lewfü is Mapudungun for “on the riverbank”, which is exactly where today’s cooking demonstration takes place. You will start with a visit to a local market, where you will buy fresh local ingredients. Then, heading in the direction of Nueva Braunau, your next destination is the Restaurant Inal Lewfü on the riverbank of the Río Maullín. Chilean chef Gustavo awaits to take you on a culinary journey, introducing you to the specialties of Chilean cuisine. First, have a “choripan” (a typical Chilean spicy sausage) and a welcome drink, then start cooking. Conjure up delicious Chilean dishes with professional guidance, using the fresh produce from the market and the restaurant’s own garden, and then enjoy your meal. The quiet and beautiful backdrop of the river offers the perfect setting for this dining experience.



NEW



HOMEMADE PATAGONIAN LUNCH

(Half day)

Enjoy a delicious Patagonian lunch prepared with love and locally grown organic products. You start the meal with a traditional Chilean aperitif and typical first course dish. The main course consists of salads and firewood grilled meat. The meal is topped with a delicious dessert and is accompanied throughout by Chilean wines and beer.

NOTE: Vegetarian and vegan options are also available upon request.

Chiloé Island

MYTHS AND SEAFOOD

The Island of Chiloé, steeped in legends, is situated southeast of Puerto Montt, in the Pacific. It is Chile's second largest island after Tierra del Fuego. The archipelago of Chiloé includes many small islets that lie off the east coast in the Gulf of Ancud. Parts of Chiloé are protected in various national parks.

Farmers and fishermen live traditional lives in picturesque villages where time seems to stand still. The landscape is a verdant green, and, whenever the sun shines, the colourful painted wooden houses and fishing boats glow in lovely colours. For a long time, Chiloé was largely cut off from the mainland, allowing deeply rooted traditions, myths and legends to survive to this day. The island's emblems are its wood houses on stilts and the many wooden churches that were constructed without the use of a single nail or screw, which have been added to the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List.



CLASSIC EXCURSIONS

Half day

- MARITIME WILDLIFE OF CHILOÉ

Full day

- ANCUD AND THE PUÑIHUIL PENGUIN COLONY
- CASTRO AND DALCAHUE
- CHURCHES OF CHONCHI AND LEMUY ISLAND
- CHURCHES OF COLO, TENAÚN AND SAN JUAN

ACTIVE TOURS

Full day

CHILOÉ NATIONAL PARK, «PUENTE DE LAS ALMAS» HIKING TRAIL

CULINARY EXPERIENCES

Half day

- CURANTO - A GENUINE CHILOÉ TRADITION



MARITIME WILDLIFE OF CHILOÉ

 (Half day)

This half-day excursion takes you from Ancud along the Pacific coast of Chiloé Island to the Duatao shoreline, one of the most active sea lion breeding rookeries in the area. During your cruise, you're likely to see a wide variety of marine life, including sea lions, penguins, albatrosses, petrels, huge blue whales, and other types of whales. Highlights of the cruise include the Duatao rookery, the high-seas marine birds – and, of course, the whales! After this exciting excursion you will return to Ancud.

SEASON: *December to April (for high likelihood of observing blue whales)*



ANCUD AND THE PUÑIHUIL PENGUIN COLONY

 (Full day)

This day trip begins early in the morning, setting off south towards Pargua, where the car ferry crosses to Chiloé. The first stop on the island is the Bay of Caulín, where black-necked swans and other bird species can be observed during summer. After that, you will reach Ancud, the northern-most town and former capital of the island, where you will get a brief insight into the lifestyle of the island's inhabitants, known as 'Chilotes'. Fortifications dating back to the era of the War of Independence will be visited in Ancud.

Afterwards, the journey continues along the northern coast of Chiloé, reaching the Puñihuil penguin colony, one of the few places where Magellanic and Humboldt penguins live side by side. Weather permitting, you will take a boat to one of the small rocky islands in the sea where the penguins live. The return journey to Puerto Varas is in the evening.



CASTRO AND DALCAHUE

☀️ (Full day)

This day trip begins early in the morning, setting off to the south to board the car ferry that crosses to Chiloé. After your arrival on the island, you will first go to Castro, the island's capital, where you will visit the Plaza de Armas and its cathedral painted in daring lilac and orange. The island's largest craft market can also be visited near the harbour. Castro is famous for its 'palafitos', houses raised on stilts above the water. There are various reasons for their existence, but the most compelling is perhaps the simple fact that early inhabitants sought to evade taxes by building over the water. After all, the ocean has always belonged to everyone!

Afterwards, you will continue to the fishing village of Dalcahue, where there is time for a stroll. Traders in the Sunday market offer local craftwork, and the Chilotes shop for their fruit and vegetables next door. Dalcahue is the regional centre for many smaller islands and fishing villages along the coast, with boats bringing in fresh catches of crab and other seafood, and provides good insight into the traditional way of life in Chiloé.



CHURCHES OF CHONCHI AND LEMUY ISLAND

☀️ (Full day)

In the morning, you will drive south from Castro, stopping first at Chonchi and visiting the local church, one of the largest on Chiloé. You'll also get a chance to explore the centre of this typical Chiloé village. From here, you'll take a ferry to the island of Lemuy, where three of the World Heritage churches of Chiloé stand: the church of Ichuac, dating from the 19th century, the church of Aldachildo (1910), and last but not least the church of Detif. The village of Detif is the most remote of the entire island; to get there you'll drive across a causeway over the sea, with beautiful views of the water on both sides of the vehicle. In the afternoon, you will return to Castro.



CHURCHES OF COLO, TENAÚN AND SAN JUAN

☀️ (Full day)

In the morning, you will drive north from Castro to visit three of the beautiful World Heritage wooden churches of Chiloé. After a short stopover in Quemchi, your first destination is the village of Colo to see its church and enjoy a delicious homemade lunch. In the afternoon, you will continue on to Tenaún via winding rural roads. The church here is the only one on the island that has a façade with three towers. Finally, you will visit the beautiful church of the seaside village of San Juan, where you will also learn about the local boatbuilding tradition. Late in the afternoon, you will return to Castro.



CHILOÉ NATIONAL PARK, «PUENTE DE LAS ALMAS» HIKING TRAIL

☀️ (Full day)

From Castro, you will drive toward Cucao on the Pacific coast, near the entrance to Chiloé National Park. Whilst crossing the island, you will pass several picturesque villages and two quiet lakes. Shortly past Cucao, you will leave the car and set out southward on a good trail that winds through the foothills of Pirulil Ridge, passing first through dense native forest then up to a green plateau. Atop cliffs that drop 70 metres down to the sea, this part

of the hike provides stunning views of the Pacific Ocean. The trail ends at the mystical Bridge of Souls (Puente de las Almas), a short wooden walkway that seems to stop at the edge of the world. In fact, according to legend, the souls of deceased Chilotes wait at the end of the bridge for the boat that takes them to the afterlife. After a picnic in this stunning spot, you'll head back along the trail to the car and then Castro.



CURANTO - A GENUINE CHILOE TRADITION

☀️ (Half day)

On special occasions, the people of Chiloé ('Chilotes') like to celebrate with "curanto": a rich meal of seafood, fish, a variety of meats, and, of course, Chiloé potatoes, all cooked in an earth oven. During this entertaining excursion, you will be deeply immersed in the island's culture and will learn how to prepare curanto from a local family. Fires will be lit upon your arrival, and then you can help prepare the ingredients for the dish. Once the meal is covered with earth and big leaves and left to cook, you will learn to prepare "milcao", a typical regional snack made from potatoes, and enjoy a tasty pisco sour. If you feel adventurous, you can also explore the surroundings on small hiking paths meanwhile waiting to uncover the curanto and indulge!

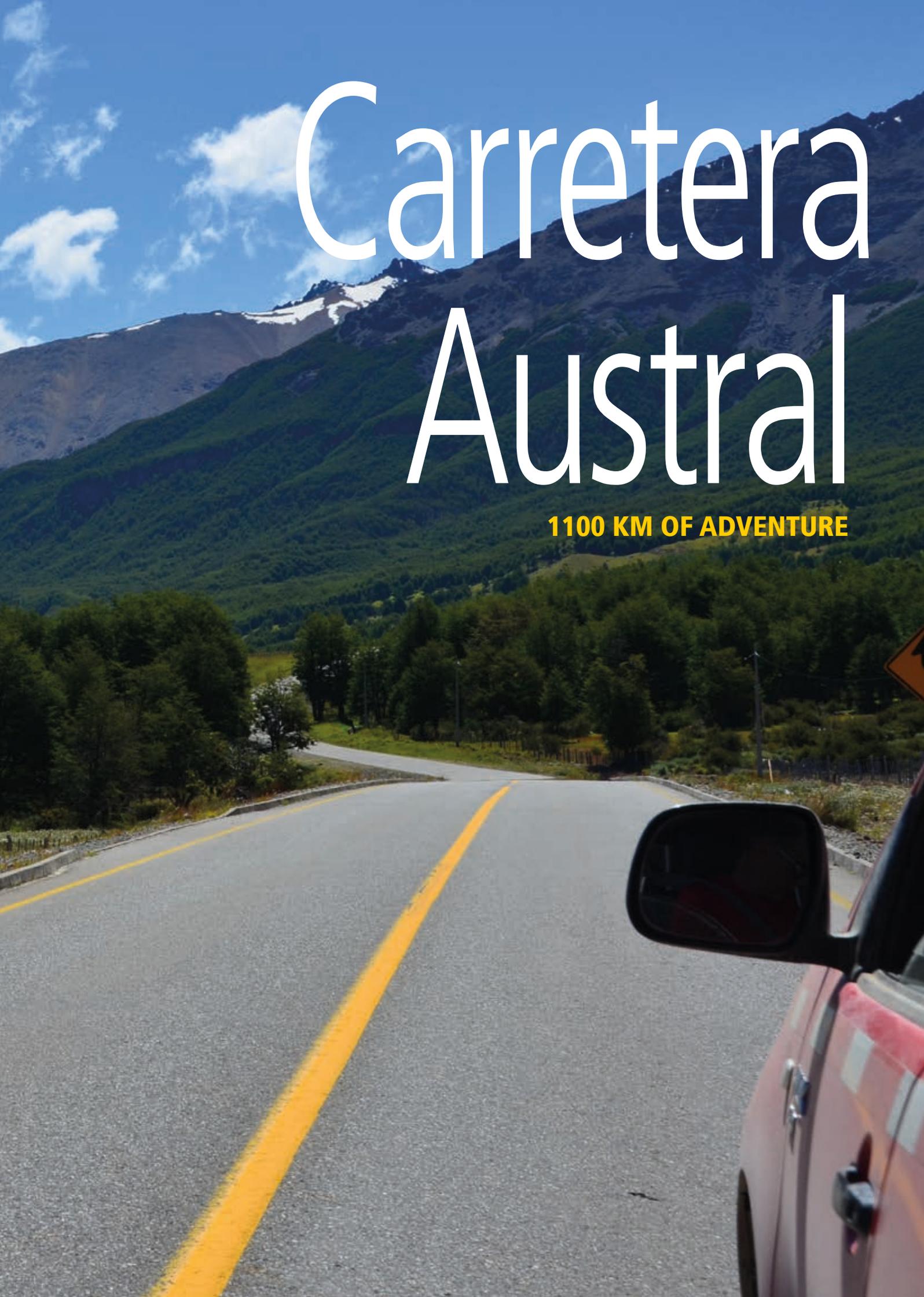


It took twenty years to build the Carretera Austral, which travels through rainforests and coastal regions, across rivers and around lakes, through rocky terrain, and along fjords and beaches. Completed in 1996, the highway road begins in Puerto Montt and winds its way across 1,100km/688mi (paved in areas) to Caleta Tortel, providing access to previously inaccessible regions.

Visiting this area is like a journey to the past. Horses and oxcarts are still common means of transportation for locals. If you are looking for adventure and relaxation far away from the booming tourism scene, you will find what you seek on the Carretera Austral in a pristine wilderness.

Carretera Austral

1100 KM OF ADVENTURE





CLASSIC EXCURSIONS

Half day

- AN ARTWORK OF NATURE: THE MARBLE CHAPEL
- CITY TOUR COIHAYQUE 

Full day

- THROUGH THE WILDERNESS: LAKE ELIZALDE AND SIMPSON VALLEY
- BOAT TRIP TO LAGUNA SAN RAFAEL
- AIKEN DEL SUR NATIONAL PARK
- QUEULAT NATIONAL PARK
- PARQUE PATAGONIA



AN ARTWORK OF NATURE: THE MARBLE CHAPEL

(Half day)

Take off in the morning to Puerto Tranquilo set on Lake General Carrera, Chile's largest lake. From there, a small boat will take you to the Capilla de Marmol, where time and the clear waters have carved amazing shapes out of the rock, creating an incredible natural sculpture: a unique marble vault on slim pillars, akin to a cathedral. This «artwork of nature» will leave you breathless!

NOTE: *This excursion is subject to weather conditions.*



CITY TOUR COYHAIQUE

(Half day)

Discover the city of Coyhaique, which was founded in 1929 and is the capital of the partly still unexplored Aysén region of Patagonia. The city is located in a beautiful valley between the rivers Simpson and Coyhaique and the mountain Divisadero to the south. The excursion begins with an orientation tour of the city, and you will get to know the different residential areas surrounded by the magnificent local natural landscape. During this tour you will have the opportunity to visit interesting places of the city such as Pioneer Square (Plaza del Pionera) and its shepherd monument and the handicraft market located in front of the main square, market which offers crafts from throughout the region. Afterwards we continue towards Mirador de la Piedra del Indio, where, amongst the beautiful natural panorama, there is a unique rock formation that looks like the face of an indigenous man. To end the day in a relaxed manner before returning to the city, we visit the local brewery D'Olbek, founded by a family of Belgian immigrants. The use of quality European ingredients and the pure, crystal clear water of Patagonia make this beer special.

INFO: *Chilean museums are closed on Mondays.*



BOAT TRIP TO LAGUNA SAN RAFAEL

☀️ (Full day)

Departing from Chacabuco, take an unforgettable journey by catamaran to see a natural phenomenon of spectacular beauty. The boat passes through fjords and channels, through the Gulf of Tres Cruces and Elephant Bay. After around five hours, you will reach San Rafael National Park, a UNESCO World Biosphere site. On some days, you can even spot sea lions in Elephant Bay.

A 20,000-year-old wall of ice towers above the San Rafael Lagoon, and inflatable Zodiac boats will take you up close to the glacier. With a bit of luck, you will witness icebergs calving off the glacier and see pieces of the ancient ice falling into the lagoon with a thunderous crash.

NOTE: The tour takes approximately 12 hours.



THROUGH THE WILDERNESS: LAKE ELIZALDE AND SIMPSON VALLEY

☀️ (Full day)

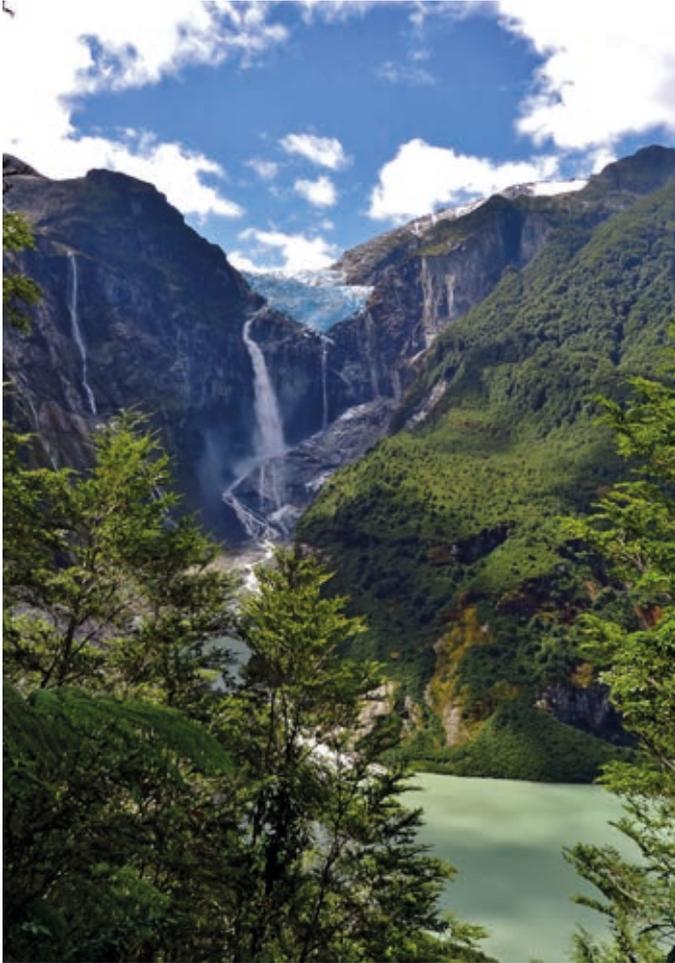
Upon leaving Coyhaique, you will head south, passing by a volcanic crater lagoon and the El Salto Waterfall, before reaching beautiful Lake Elizalde. The drive goes through a wonderfully scenic area with densely forested mountains and the Simpson Valley. Upon your arrival at Lake Elizalde, you will have the chance to relish in the beautiful scenery and to hike through the forest of coihue and lenga trees that surround the deep blue lake. The return drive is via a different route, passing the Seis Lagunas (Six Lagoons), where wild huemul live nearby. The huemul is a species of small deer that was once numerous in this region. The return to Coyhaique is in the late afternoon.



AIKEN DEL SUR NATIONAL PARK

☀️ (Full day)

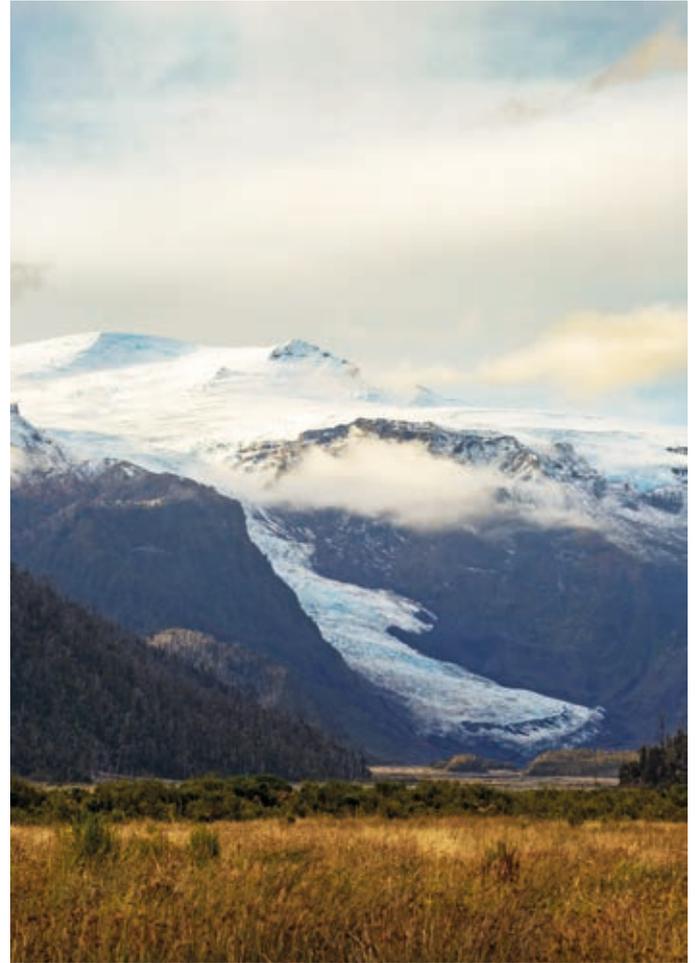
This privately-owned 300 hectare nature preserve, located along the shore of Lago Riesco, is home to a beautiful natural environment of wild rushing streams, waterfalls and cold evergreen rainforest. Several plant species in this far-off corner of the world have only recently been discovered! During your hike along the footpaths of this wonderful landscape, an experienced ranger will teach you about the distinctive local flora and fauna.



QUEULAT NATIONAL PARK

☀️ (Full day)

At the Queulat National Park, located near Puerto Puyuhuapi, you can explore one of the most pristine landscapes of Chile. The famous Carretera Austral crosses the park for about 40 km/25 mi, making it easily accessible to visitors. A part of the more than 150,000 hectares of grounds is still unexplored. The national park is characterised by dense evergreen forests, lakes and glaciers. The most famous attraction is the Hanging Glacier (Ventisquero Colgante), which flows down from the Cerro Alto Nevado, ending in a spectacular waterfall. Apart from the native vegetation of trees and edible coihue and nalcas, a variety of wildlife including kingfishers and cougars can also be observed with a little luck.



PARQUE PATAGONIA

☀️ (Full day)

Parque Patagonia is about 80,000 hectares of land in the region of Aysén and lies between the Tamango and Jeinimeni Nature Reserves. The land belonged to Douglas Tompkins, the American entrepreneur (Esprit, The North Face), who also owned the land of Parque Pumalín in the northern area of the Carretera Austral. Tompkins bought the land in several stages; beginning with the purchase of an estancia with livestock farming, his growing property ultimately transformed into a grand nature park. Volunteers have removed more than 800km of fences to enable the native species to return to their habitat and reproduce. The animals of the area, including huemul, pumas and guanacos, as well as various endangered amphibian species, freely roam the land, meanwhile condors fly the skies above.

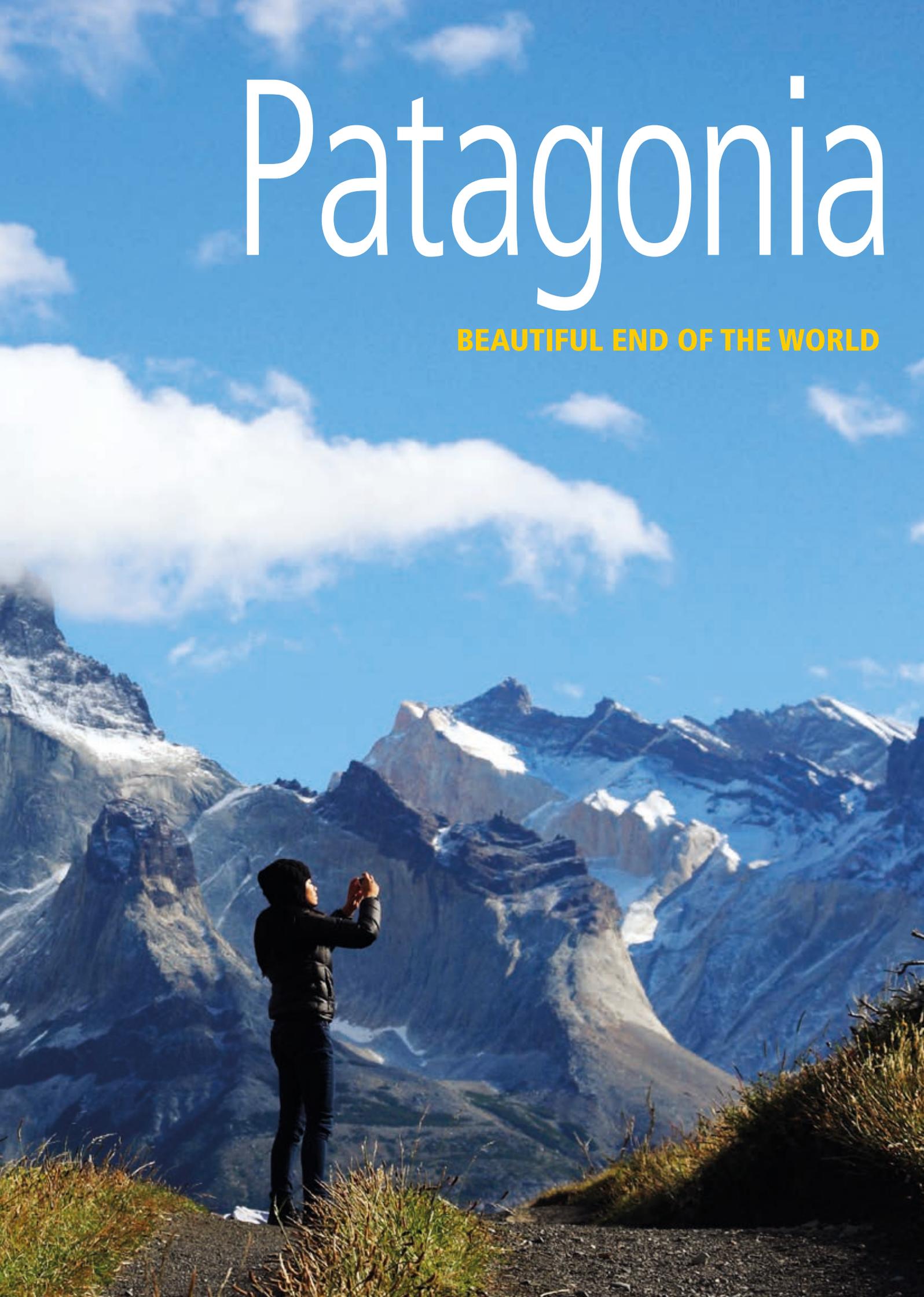
Many of the former gauchos of the estancia now work to protect the endangered species. This private park is open to the public and offers many options for short trekking or multi-day hiking tours to spectacular destinations, plus wildlife observation, kayaking and fly fishing.



Patagonia is the well-known name for a little-known region at the southern 'end of the world', a place with its own unique magic. One of the planet's last regions to survive almost unchanged, it boasts cities originating from the former wool boom, as well as glaciers and the summits of its national parks.

Patagonia

BEAUTIFUL END OF THE WORLD



Punta Arenas

LAST CITY BEFORE THE ANTARCTICA

Punta Arenas is the capital of the Magellan Region and has a population of 150,000. Due to its strategic location on the Magellan Strait, the city is an important harbour for merchant ships to this day. For this reason, as well as the growth in sheep farming during the 19th century, Punta Arenas once enjoyed great wealth.

CLASSIC EXCURSIONS



Half day

- CITY TOUR PUNTA ARENAS
- CITY TOUR PUNTA ARENAS «FOLLOWING THE TRACES OF THE SEAFARERS»
- JOURNEY INTO HISTORY: FUERTE BULNES



Add-on

- NAO VICTORIA MUSEUM

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES



Half day

- ETHNIC PARK KEU KEN



Full day

- PATAGONIAN BBQ AT ESTANCIA FITZ ROY

WILDLIFE WATCHING



Half day

- CONDORS IN PATAGONIA



Full day

- ISLAS MAGDALENA & MARTA
- WHALE WATCHING
- KING PENGUINS OF TIERRA DEL FUEGO

ACTIVE TOURS



Half day

- MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURE
- KAYAKING AT AGUA FRESCA BAY



Full day

- MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURE
- KAYAK TO CAPE SAN ISIDRO
- HIKING IN PARK LOS MONTAÑESES

NEW



CITY TOUR PUNTA ARENAS

(Half day)

Your guided city tour through Punta Arenas will begin with a drive to the elevated viewpoint of the Cerro La Cruz, where you will enjoy a beautiful view of the city and the Magellan Strait. Back down in the city, you will visit the interesting Museum Salesiano Marggiorino Borgatello, where you will receive an introduction to Patagonia’s original inhabitants, including the Kawaskhar and Yamana, who lived here from around 11,000 BC. The museum exhibits the region’s fauna and flora, as well as its colonial and missionary history. Afterwards, the tour continues to the Punta Arenas cemetery, whose impressive tombs make it Chile’s most beautiful final resting place. The city tour ends at the main square, the Plaza de Armas, lined by the 19th century mansions of wealthy sheep-farming families. To round off, there is time for a short stroll around the handicraft market.

NOTE: *Chilean museums are closed on Mondays.*



CITY TOUR PUNTA ARENAS «FOLLOWING THE TRACES OF THE SEAFARERS»

(Half day)

Discover Punta Arenas following the traces of the old seafaring men! During this exciting city tour, you will learn about the seafaring history of southern Chile. Punta Arenas is the capital of the Magellan Region and has 150,000 inhabitants. Due to its advantageous location on the Magellan Strait, the city once enjoyed tremendous economic success and still continues to be used by merchant ships. The ship Nao Victoria was part of Ferdinand Magellan’s 16th century expedition that discovered the route around South America to the Pacific, and it was the only one of his ships to successfully complete the circumnavigation. You will visit an exact, full-scale reconstruction of this first ship ever to circle the globe. This amazing replica, which looks out over the straits named after the explorer, allows you to learn about life aboard ship for the crew of over 250 sailors. Stroll through the captain’s cabin, the crew deck and the dim storage areas of the ship’s hold. Take the tiller and imagine you are the first European to sail a ship on the wide Pacific! Your tour continues with a visit of the Punta Arenas cemetery, whose impressive tombs make it Chile’s most beautiful final resting place. Then you drive to the elevated viewpoint of the Cerro La Cruz, where you will enjoy a beautiful view of the city and the Magellan Strait. Back down in the city, at the main square (Plaza de Armas), the magnificent 19th century homes of the great estate owners recall the fabulous wealth the city once enjoyed. A statue honouring Magellan in the middle of the town square welcomes you.



JOURNEY INTO HISTORY: FUERTE BULNES

🕒 (Half day)

The origins of Punta Arenas lie in Fuerte (Fortress) Bulnes, which was the first Chilean outpost in the Magellan Region. It was constructed in 1843 on the order of President Bulnes, who wanted to lay claim to this southern territory for Chile. The first pioneers lived here under tough conditions for five hard years, before a more promising location was found for establishing Punta Arenas in 1848. Today, the fortress is an open-air museum. Nearby you will find the remains of Puerto de Hambre (Hunger Port), which recalls the catastrophic early attempt by the Spanish to found a colony in this wild country and control the Magellan Strait.

NOTE: Chilean museums are closed on Mondays.



NAO VICTORIA MUSEUM

🕒 (Add-on)

Along the coastal road from Punta Arenas to the airport is a museum that is home to an exact, full-scale reconstruction of the first ship ever to circle the globe: the Nao Victoria. This ship was part of Ferdinand Magellan's 16th century expedition that discovered the route around South America to the Pacific, and it was the only one of his ships to successfully complete the circumnavigation. This amazing replica, which looks out over the Magellan Strait (named after the explorer), allows visitors to learn about life aboard the ship for the crew of over 250 sailors. All parts of the ship can be toured, including the captain's cabin, the crew deck and the dim storage areas of the ship's hold. Take the tiller and imagine you are the first European to sail a ship on the wide Pacific!

NOTE: Chilean museums are closed on Mondays.



ETHNIC PARK KEU KEN

☀️ (Half day)

Walking Parque Étnico Keu Ken, visitors see just how hard life must have been for the indigenous people of Chile. In this park south of Punta Arenas, a path leads through the Patagonian vastness and past 18 different stations that show the way of life and housing of the indigenous people. A local guide explains the old culture, hunting methods, traditions, and customs while the visitors are exposed to the unique Patagonian climate. Despite the modern day clothes available nowadays, this excursion gives guests a realistic impression of the people's former living conditions. The visit lasts around two hours depending on the interests and fitness of the visitors.



PATAGONIAN BBQ AT ESTANCIA FITZ ROY

☀️ (Full day)

Anyone visiting Patagonia should experience at least one «asado patagónico». The sheep station of Estancia Fitz Roy offers you a traditional meal of slow roasted whole lamb. You will reach the farm by crossing to the island of Riesco by ferry. At the estancia, visitors are welcomed by the owners themselves and then can visit the farm's museum that illustrates the everyday life of the former native population. Afterwards, enjoy the delicious meal, followed by an opportunity to watch professional sheep shearers engage in work.



CONDORS IN PATAGONIA

☀️ (Half day)

On this tour, you will follow the traces of condors, the national bird of Chile. You will start the excursion travelling approximately 100km to Estancia Olga Teresa, stopping along the road to observe guanacos, ñandús, flamingos, and occasionally foxes and skunks. Within the fields of the estancia there is a little hill called Cerro Palomares, whose slopes shelter a condor colony. There you can view adult specimens, both males and females, and also young condors. The latter have greyish brown plumage, unlike the adult condors that have black feathers. Male condors are identified by a red crest and a white collar on their neck. You will arrive by bus to the base of the hill. After a 10-minute walk, you will reach an ascent that will take you near to the condors.

The condors are usually found resting or flying around the hill. There have been up to 70 condors flying simultaneously. You will also be able to see a large number of other bird species such as gulls, owls, caiquenes (wild geese), thrushes, and eagles, to name a few. Occasionally, you can also see guanacos. The place is windy, so you will need to bring warm clothing with you; also wear comfortable soled shoes suitable for walking on uneven terrain.



ISLAS MAGDALENA & MARTA

☀️ (Full day)

Isla Santa Marta and Isla Magdalena are reached by a four-and-a-half-hour trip by inflatable Zodiac boats through the chilly waters of the Magellan Strait. The islands are home to an enormous colony of Magellanic penguins, and there are also many other animals to see, including cormorants and petrels. The excursion starts at Laredo Bay, 25 kilometres to the north of Punta Arenas. You will set out across the waters of the strait, arriving first at Santa Marta Island, where an important colony of sea lions is located, along with cormorant nesting grounds. After a tour of Santa Marta, the excursion continues on to Magdalena Island, which, along with Santa Marta, has been part of the Los Pingüinos Natural Monument protection area since 1982. Each year, from October to March, over sixty thousand pairs of Magellanic penguins converge on Santa Magdalena, taking advantage of the summer weather to nest and fledge their young. On your tour, you'll visit an environmental interpretation centre which, besides an amazing view, provides information on the Magellan Strait and its ecological richness. Following a circumnavigation of Magdalena Island in the Zodiac, you will return back to your starting point in Laredo Bay.

NOTE: This excursion is only possible in good weather and with a minimum of eight participants.



WHALE WATCHING

☀️ (Full day)

In one of the most remote and pristine places on the planet, about three hours sailing from the southernmost point of the continental world, is Cape Froward. One of the largest mammals in the world, the majestic and incomparable humpback whale, includes this cape as one its temporary habitats. On this unforgettable journey, you will enjoy a unique landscape surrounded by mountains, glaciers and forests of lengas and coihues. You will also be amazed by the proximity and abundance of the local marine life: sea lions, petrels, cormorants, southern dolphins, etc.

SEASON: *December to April*



KING PENGUINS OF TIERRA DEL FUEGO

☀️ (Full day)

You will leave Punta Arenas with an early flight to the town of Porvenir on the Chilean Tierra del Fuego Island. This is a short but truly scenic 15-minute flight over the mythical waters of the Magellan Strait. As soon as we land, you will take in the vegetation of this part of Tierra del Fuego, dominated by flat wind-swept steppes, tussock grasses and low shrubs. After meeting your guide and driver, you will stop for coffee and snacks to relax for a short while before you drive for approximately two hours along the shores of Bahía Inútil (Useless Bay), where you should expect to see a great array of wildlife. At Parque Pingüino Rey you will have a short introduction on how to approach the King penguins. Not many places in the world offer a chance to see them in the wild, making this colony (the only continental American breeding colony) a very special one indeed. You have ample opportunities to observe and

photograph the penguins from a reasonable distance. After this great wildlife experience, you will return to Porvenir to take the flight back to Punta Arenas.

NOTE: Excursion available only on working days from Tuesday to Friday.



KAYAKING AT AGUA FRESCA BAY

☀️ (Half day)

Situated 27 km south of Punta Arenas, Agua Fresca Bay is a habitat for many different species thanks to its beaches, mountains and forests along the shores. Seabirds, sea lions, dolphins, and other species can be observed in their natural environment. The two-hour kayak tour begins with exercises in a small shallow river before heading to the Magellan Strait. After this kayak adventure, you will have a typical Patagonian snack.

NOTE: *The kayak equipment is provided. We recommend taking a second set of clothes and swimwear.*

KAYAK TO CAPE SAN ISIDRO

☀️ (Full day)

This full-day kayak excursion to Cape San Isidro and its lighthouse area, 75 km south of Punta Arenas, takes you to a pristine environment with evergreen beech forests and further than any road in the area can take you. There is a total of five hours of paddling.

The tour includes full kayak equipment: a neoprene suit plus a semi-dry two-piece Kokatat suit to wear over the neoprene, though we recommend you bring extra clothes in case the first pair gets wet. The tour also includes a guide, snack and box lunch at an outdoor camp set at the shore of the Magellan Strait.

A Zodiac boat will accompany you for security reasons and to transport your lunch and equipment to the camp where you will stop for a break.

MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURE

☀️ (Half day)

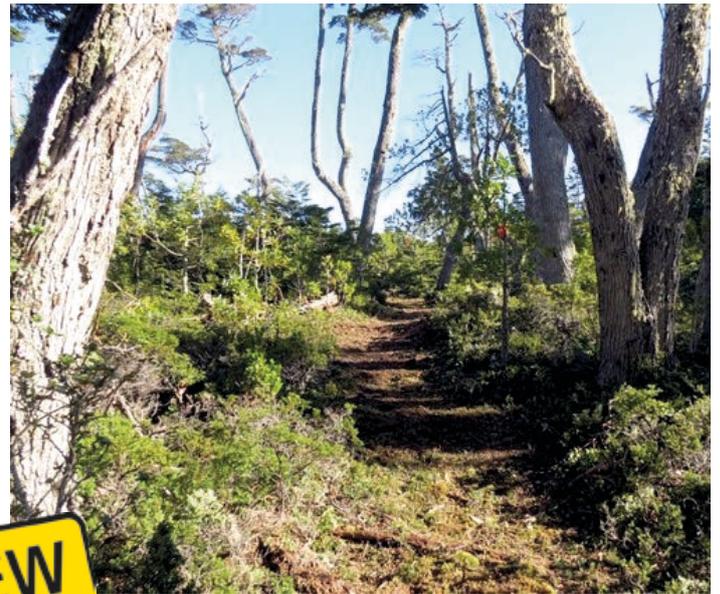
For those who think a whole day on bike is too much, there is a shorter version, which also starts from Punta Arenas. The trails are near the town, about 20 minutes from the main square. Though this bike ride is shorter, you will nevertheless have a complete Patagonian forest experience. During this tour on various trails and with different "obstacles", you stop at some of the most beautiful vantage points around Punta Arenas, from where you can see the Magellan Strait, the island of Tierra del Fuego and the port city.

MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURE

☀️ (Full day)

On this tour starting in Punta Arenas you will get to know the beautiful landscape and the forests of Patagonia in a very special way: on mountain bike. You will ride through a varied terrain with root mats slopes and trails that offer spectacular views of the mountains that surround the city. You stop at various vantage points to enjoy a beautiful view of the Magellan Strait, Tierra del Fuego Island and the city. This ride is full of local history on amazing trails through the forest.





NEW



HIKING IN PARK LOS MONTAÑESES

☀️ (Full day)

Hike through the forests of Patagonia, observe different bird species and enjoy the scenic beauty of the extreme south in Los Montañeses Park, a private park located 45 minutes south of Punta Arenas in an area called Punta Carrera. The park is characterised by its dense native forest of cinnamon trees, lengas and Dombey's beeches. A two- to three-hour trail allows you to explore up close the flora

and fauna (which includes a great variety of birds) of this natural environment. The trail ends at a lookout point 300 metres above sea level that provides a nice panoramic view.

Puerto Natales

THE GATEWAY TO TORRES DEL PAINE

Puerto Natales is located on the fjord of Última Esperanza, the Fjord of Last Hope. Its location between Punta Arenas and Torres del Paine National Park, as well as its proximity to the Perito Moreno Glacier in Argentina, makes this small town the perfect starting point for many trips and excursions. Puerto Natales is a quiet port town with comfortable hotels and good seafood restaurants. Try excellent salmon and freshly caught centollas (king crab)! Hikers from all over the world meet here to obtain supplies for their treks in the Torres del Paine.

CLASSIC EXCURSIONS

Half day

- MILODÓN CAVE
- VISIT TO THE THREE CAVES **NEW**

Full day

- TORRES DEL PAINE AND GREY GLACIER
- BALMACEDA AND SERRANO GLACIERS
- WONDROUS ICE: PERITO MORENO GLACIER

WILDLIFE WATCHING

Full day

- PUMA SAFARI IN TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK **NEW**

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Half day

- ESTANCIA FIORDO EBERHARD
- ESTANCIA CERRO NEGRO





NEW

VISIT TO THE THREE CAVES

(Half day)

Take a relaxed hike to the Three Caves to explore the Cueva Chica (small cave), the Cueva del Medio (medium cave) and the large Cueva del Milodón (Myloodon Cave) located in Chilean Patagonia 24 km northwest of Puerto Natales. The 200-meter-long Myloodon Cave was named after the now extinct prehistoric Myloodon (giant ground sloth), whose fossils were found in this cave in 1895 by the German adventurer Hermann Eberhard. The cave is also an important archaeological and natural cultural monument as some of the earliest human remains in the region (dating from approx. 6,000 BC) have been found here.

MILODÓN CAVE

(Half day)

The destination of this excursion is the Cueva del Milodón National Monument, located 25km from Puerto Natales, where in 1895 the German adventurer Hermann Eberhard first discovered the remains of the prehistoric giant ground sloth known today (in English) as a Myloodon. The animal's existence was proven by a well-conserved piece of skin, bones and hair that Eberhard found inside the cave, which reaches 30m/98ft in height and 200m/656ft in depth. Today a life-size model of the Myloodon greets visitors to the site, while an information centre provides historical background. The trip from Puerto Natales to Milodón Cave is worthwhile in itself, offering magnificent views of Eberhard Fjord and Seno Última Esperanza (Last Hope Sound). Following your tour of the cave, you'll retrace this enjoyable drive back to Puerto Natales.

NOTE: This excursion can be made on the way from or to the Torres del Paine National Park.



TORRES DEL PAINE AND GREY GLACIER

☀️ (Full day)

Your tour guide will collect you from your hotel in the early morning for departure to the famous Torres del Paine National Park. A tour through the park will provide wonderful views onto the Torres Massif and its jagged peaks, as well as Grey Lake and the Grey Glacier. Several short hikes enable visitors to reach the most beautiful viewing points in the park and become acquainted with the wealth of flora and fauna found in the area. Visit Lake Grey and take a three-hour boat trip to the impressive Grey Glacier that calves into Lake Grey, decorating it with small icebergs. The return drive to Puerto Natales is in the late afternoon.



BALMACEDA AND SERRANO GLACIERS

☀️ (Full day)

This beautiful excursion along the Last Hope Fjord begins in the morning, setting off from the harbour at Puerto Natales. The journey takes you to the end of the fjord, past the Balmaceda Glacier that is gradually forging a path down the mountain. This is a good place to see the power of the ice that has shaped the rocks over thousands of years. After disembarking at the end of the fjord, the tour continues by foot to the base of the Serrano Glacier. The route covers about 1km/0.5mi along a well-maintained path through subpolar forest. This is a unique opportunity to get up close to a glacier! You will have lunch at the Estancia Perales and then return to Puerto Natales.

NOTE: Another version of this tour leaves out the stop at Estancia Perales. On this version, you instead take a Zodiac boat on the Serrano River to the Serrano sector of the Torres del Paine National Park.



WONDROUS ICE: PERITO MORENO GLACIER

☀️ (Full day)

This tour sets off early in the morning, heading towards Calafate, Argentina and the amazingly beautiful Perito Moreno Glacier. The glacier is part of the Argentinean Southern Ice Field, an immense ice mass that has buried a huge area beneath it. Visitors have the opportunity to view this natural wonder from various viewpoints, walking along safe and signed footpaths. With a bit of luck, you can even experience columns of ice breaking away from the glacier and falling into the lake Lago Argentino with a thundering crash.

The return to Puerto Natales is in the late evening.



PUMA SAFARI IN TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

☀️ (Full day)

Enjoy an exciting adventure of exploration and discovery in the area of the Chilean Patagonia with the highest concentration of pumas. This excursion is ideal for photography enthusiasts and nature lovers. You will see pumas and other animals in their natural habitat, take in the beautiful Patagonian landscapes and learn more about the conservation of the pumas. Expert local guides will start you this on this trekking very early in the morning, usually at 5 am in the summer time, to enjoy the sunrise while you wait for news from the pumatrackers that will lead you to the pumas. In the afternoon you will go back out again on the trail of the pumas, as well as other animals and birds, whilst enjoying the wonderful view.

NEW

NOTE: Be aware that the weather in Torres del Paine is very changeable - please wear appropriate clothing. Minors under the age of 18 are not permitted on the tour. For this tour we recommend you stay overnight in the park the night before.

ESTANCIA FIORDO EBERHARD

 (Half day)

The Estancia Fiordo Eberhard is an important piece of the settlement history of Patagonia. It was founded by the German pioneer Hermann Eberhard in 1893 and is located about 20km from Puerto Natales in the Patagonian Pampa. Eberhard had been exploring this nearly uncharted territory during a burdensome winter expedition the year before. With his estancia, he laid the foundation for the settlement of the Puerto Natales region and its importance for the farming of livestock. In addition, Hermann Eberhard discovered the Milodón Cave in 1895. The discovery was followed by various scientific expeditions in Patagonia and also helped to develop tourism in this region.

The descendants of Hermann Eberhard live on the estancia to this day and welcome visitors wishing to experience the Patagonian history and way of life. For a real Patagonian experience, a typical lamb barbecue will be held. A natural view point located only a few steps away from the estancia offers nice panoramic views for photographs.



ESTANCIA CERRO NEGRO

 (Half day)

Estancia Cerro Negro is located halfway between Punta Arenas and Torres del Paine National Park. The sheep farm was founded in the 1940s by a Croatian immigrant. Still today, business continues in the spirit of its founder, with thousands of sheep on the 6,000 hectares of land. The farm house is faithfully decorated and gives interesting insight in the Patagonian country life of that time. You will enjoy a sheep shearing show as well as a delicious Patagonian barbecue.

Torres del Paine National Park

The Torres del Paine National Park is around 140km/87mi north of Puerto Natales. Its three granite peaks – the 'Torres Del Paine' (2650-2800m/8,695-9,187ft) – reach steeply into the sky and provide Chile with one of its most famous images. The national park's area of over 2400 sq km/927 sq mi is an uncontested highlight of Chile.

The northern borders of the park are characterised by mighty glaciers. This is where the Southern Ice Field, the world's third-largest inland ice field, ends. The Grey Glacier slowly melts into Lake Grey, producing fantastic icebergs in every shade of green and blue. The park is home to numerous species of wild animals, including guanacos, ñandús, and hundreds of bird species, including condors.

CLASSIC EXCURSIONS

Full day

- INTRODUCTION TO TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK
- TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK: VIEWPOINTS & WATERFALLS
- BOAT EXCURSION TO GREY GLACIER

ACTIVE TOURS

Half day

- HORSEBACK-RIDING AROUND LAKE NORDENSKJÖLD
- KAYAK ADVENTURE BETWEEN ICEBERGS
- HIKING AT LAGO GREY

Full day

- ICE-HIKING ON THE GREY GLACIER
- TREKKING EXCURSION "BASE LAS TORRES"
- TREKKING EXCURSION TO VALLE DEL FRANCÉS
- HIKE TO THE "ORIGIN OF LIFE"





INTRODUCTION TO TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

☀️ (Full day)

This excursion truly lives up to its name by giving guests the fullest introduction to Torres del Paine National Park in the shortest amount of time. This road trip into the heart of the park features stops at scenic overlooks, short hikes to natural landmarks and a wonderful view of the Grey Glacier. Stops along the way include Puente Negro (Black Bridge), Nordenskjöld Lookout, Sarmiento Lookout, Lake Pehoé, and the Salto Grande waterfall. After lunch guests have a choice to hike along the southern shores of Lago Grey to a lookout point where you can gaze down at the icebergs or take a narrated boat trip across the length of the lake to the imposing Grey Glacier, which tumbles down from the massive Southern Patagonia Ice Field.

TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK: VIEWPOINTS & WATERFALLS

☀️ (Full day)

This excursion will introduce you to some of the most breathtaking sights that Torres del Paine National Park has to offer. Starting from your hotel, your first stop will be the park's information centre, where you'll learn about the area's unique geography and ecosystem. Then it's on to the Cerro Condor viewpoint, which offers a spectacular view of Lake Pehoé and the peaks of the Cuernos del Paine. With many Andean condor nests in the rocks near the lookout, there is a good chance you will be able to appreciate firsthand the condor's huge wingspan, the largest of any land bird. From this spot, you'll continue to the dramatic and powerful 'Salto Grande' waterfall, where Lake Nordenskjöld's glacial snowmelt pours into Lake Pehoé. Then it will be time for a picnic at a second viewpoint, which offers a stunning panorama of Lago Nordenskjöld and the Cuernos peaks. Your last stop of the day will be the rushing Paine River Falls ('Cascadas del Río Paine'), with the white-capped Torres filling the background and providing a memorable final view of the park. On your way back to the hotel you may see ñandú (a type of large, flightless bird) and herds of wild guanaco (similar in appearance to the domesticated llama) near the road.



BOAT EXCURSION TO GREY GLACIER

☀️ (Full day)

This 3 hour boat excursion takes you to Grey Glacier, the largest in Torres del Paine National Park. Starting at Hotel Lago Grey, you will cruise up the lake toward the glacier, which reaches 30m/100ft in height and 6km/3.7mi. in width at its terminus. Pieces of ice both large and small regularly break off from the front of the glacier, falling into the water with a crack and a splash, and floating away across the lake as fluorescent blue icebergs. You will pass as close as possible in front of the glacier for a close-up view of the majestic sight before returning to the hotel.



HORSEBACK-RIDING AROUND LAKE NORDENSKJÖLD

 (Half day)

This celebrated lake at the foot of the Paine Massif is named after Otto Nordenskjöld (1869-1928), a Finnish-Swedish explorer who explored much of the Antarctic, Greenland, Chile, and Peru in the early 20th century. Starting out from your hotel, the excursion follows part of the famous “W” Trail that stretches between the lake’s gorgeous north shore and Monte Almirante Nieto, the glacier and snow-covered mountain which anchors the south-eastern extreme of the Paine Massif. The ride includes numerous stream and river crossings, and offers a chance to learn more about Patagonian baqueanos and horses, in addition to honing your own expertise on the saddle.



KAYAK ADVENTURE BETWEEN ICEBERGS

🕒 (Half day)

Discover the imposing icebergs of Grey Glacier from a new perspective: the water! You will receive your kayaks and equipment as well as safety instructions at the west side of the Grey Lake. Then paddle among the icebergs shimmering in various shades of blue and turquoise. You will be thrilled! Continue to the highlight of the tour, the front of the glacier's eastern arm, and stop in front of this majestic wall of ice. This unforgettable sight is as spectacular as it is unique! Weather permitting, you can paddle in a sheltered bay to get especially close to the ice wall before heading back to shore.

HIKING AT LAGO GREY

☀️ (Half day) – moderate

You will leave your hotel by van and head towards the Grey Lake station. We'll begin the excursion by crossing the hanging bridge over the torrential Pingo River and cross a lenga forest until we reach the shores of the typically windy Lake Grey, where you will be able to see the enormous icebergs that break off the Grey Glacier. After a moderate ascent, you will see Grey Glacier up close. This hike is of moderate difficulty. Upon your return to the Grey station, a van will be waiting to take you back to the hotel.





ICE-HIKING ON GREY GLACIER

☀️ (Full day)

This is a hike for the adventurous. Discover ice caverns shimmering icy blue and hike across blindingly white surfaces on the mighty Grey Glacier – an unforgettable experience!

The initial departure for this trek is by Zodiac boat so as to cross Grey Lake. Before setting off on foot, you will receive the necessary equipment for travelling safely on the ice. Crampons, helmets, belts with safety hooks, ropes, and ice picks are all part of your equipment. You will also be given precise advice and safety instructions before the fun begins.

The hike lasts around five hours.

NOTE: Good physical fitness is required for taking part in this activity. Participants must be 13 or older and wear a shoe size of at least 38-39 (UK size 5) for the crampons.

TREKKING EXCURSION “BASE LAS TORRES”

☀️ (Full day)

This eight-hour hike to the base of the Torres del Paine mountain peaks is one of the park’s most popular. The hike will take you through several different types of terrain. It begins on hilly grassland then reaches a lenga-wooded area in the valley of Rio Ascencio, which is fed by glaciers high above. After passing the Torres campground, the path ascends steeply on rocky ground to the reward of a deep-blue glacial lagoon, with the Torres del Paine themselves towering above you, seemingly within arm’s reach. After a break in this transcendent spot, you will hike back down to the valley and then return to your hotel.

DIFFICULTY: demanding

DURATION: approx. 11 hours



TREKKING EXCURSION TO VALLE DEL FRANCÉS

☀️ (Full day)

Your destination on this all-day hiking excursion is the Valle del Francés (French Valley) at the foot of the Cuernos del Paine, where you will have a phenomenal view of these famous glacier-covered peaks. Your first stop in Torres del Paine National Park will be at the Pudeto Guardería, where you will board a catamaran for a 30-minute cruise to the north shore of Lake Pehoé. At this point your hike will begin, with about two hours of medium-difficulty walking, taking you past beautiful Lake Skottsberg and through pristine natural surroundings to Campamento Italiano (Italian Camp). From this point on, you'll be in the Valle del Francés with the peaks of the Cuernos towering above you, seemingly within arm's reach. You can continue up the valley a few more kilometres, or optionally (for more ambitious hikers) hike the full 5.5km to Campamento Británico, from whence you can gaze on the inner Cuernos in all their glory. Your return trip will retrace your path, with a magnificent view of Lake Nordenskjöld as you descend.

HIKE TO THE "ORIGIN OF LIFE"

☀️ (Full day)

This hike starts from your hotel and takes you through beautiful Patagonian landscapes and to artistic cave paintings of the Tehuelche culture. The people of Aonikenk (Tehuelche) inhabited this area some 3,500 years ago.

The trail is easy to walk and especially suitable for photography lovers. You will see guanaco herds along the route and, with a little luck, also condors, the Chilean gray fox or even a mountain lion. At the end of the hike, you will reach the beautiful Sarmiento Lake, an exemplar of the origin of life.



The reasons for the boom and international recognition of Chilean wines in recent years lie in the country's superb viticulture conditions: excellent soils that fertilise almost superfluously, hardly any pests and a dry climate with a strong drop in temperature at night. All this allows the grapes to thrive optimally. Together with foreign investors, including large wineries in France, Spain and the US, Chilean wineries have been able to build modern facilities with top technology, and some with very interesting architecture.

Vineyards

EXCELLENT WINES FROM THE END OF THE WORLD



Chile is a country with a long winemaking tradition. By the mid 15th century, the Spaniards had introduced grapevines to the South American colonies, and wine produced in the areas that would later become Chile was exported exclusively to Spain.

Later, European immigrants also cultivated grapevines, especially Spanish and French varieties. Chile is the only country in the world that was spared by the phylloxera blight of the late 1800's and relies on ungrafted vines like the Carménère.

Depending on your clients' particular interests and available time, travelArt will arrange the ideal program, ranging from a quick day trip from Santiago to a multiple-day excursion with overnight stays in vineyard hotels! We are happy to design your individual wine tour program. The following wineries and tours are examples to give you ideas. We will be happy to customise a wine tour for you!

CASABLANCA VALLEY

- CASAS DEL BOSQUE
- EMILIANA
- WILLIAM COLE
- MATETIC
- VIÑA MAR
- KINGSTON WINERY
- CATRALA
- BODEGAS RE

MAIPO VALLEY

- PEREZ CRUZ
- HARAS DE PIRQUE
- COUSIÑO MACUL
- SANTA RITA
- UNDURRAGA
- AQUITANIA
- DOÑA JAVIERA

COLCHAGUA VALLEY

- VIK
- LAPOSTOLLE
- CASA SILVA
- VIU MANENT
- MONTES

ACONCAGUA VALLEY

- ERRAZURIZ
- VIÑA VON SIEBENTHAL





CASAS DEL BOSQUE

Viña Casas del Bosque is a family-run vineyard in Casablanca Valley, about 70km/43mi from Santiago. On 245 hectares of land, grape varieties like Chardonnay, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot, Syrah, and Pinot Noir are cultivated, with Sauvignon Blanc being especially known for its high quality. About 80% of the production of Casas del Bosque is exported to locations all over the world. The modern buildings and friendly staff attract

visitors for delicious wine tastings, supplemented by the mouth-watering cuisine of the Tanino restaurant.

At Casas del Bosque, you can help harvest the grapes. In the vineyards you will be equipped with scissors, aprons and baskets, and provided harvesting instructions. Later, you will taste some wines from the winery in the garden and have lunch in the restaurant of Casas del Bosque. After lunch, you will drive back to Santiago.



EMILIANA

Viñedos Emiliana S.A. was founded in 1986. The vineyard's primary goal over time has been to produce exceptional wines through a more fully integrated winemaking process. At Viñedos Emiliana S.A., each of the production steps is conceptualised and executed as part of the fundamental whole, from the meticulous treatment of the soil all the way to the final result of a high-quality wine. Visitors will enjoy the beautiful, all-natural surroundings in this organic vineyard and its gardens.



WILLIAM COLE

William Cole Winery is a younger vineyard, easily accessible amidst the beautiful scenery of the Casablanca Valley. The main building, constructed in 1999, incorporates elements from old Spanish missions into its modern, functional architecture. William Cole wines are bottled on-site, allowing visitors to observe the entire process of winemaking, from the vine to the bottle.



MATETIC

Located just inland from the Pacific coast, avant-garde Matetic Vineyards showcases an architecturally sophisticated wine cellar. Visitors can take a comprehensive guided tour of the winery, learning about the different steps of the winemaking process, before enjoying an «equilibrium» of ingredients from both land and sea at the gourmet restaurant, appropriately named «EQ». Overnight stays are also available at Matetic's remote, idyllic countryside setting, as well as horse riding, trekking and agrotourism activities.

VIÑA MAR

The beautiful Viña Mar winery is located in idyllic surroundings in the Casablanca Valley. The palatial main building is visible from afar and its exotic architecture sets it apart from the colonial style usually seen in the Chilean wine valleys, giving it a very special, unexpected flair. The winery's near-coastal location has a great influence on the grapes, as the morning fog and marine breeze grant the Viña Mar wines their very own character.



KINGSTON WINERY

The family-run Kingston Winery is located in the Casablanca Valley midway from Santiago to Valparaíso. The founder, John Carl Kingston, came to Chile at the beginning of the 20th century in search of copper and gold. He later founded a cattle ranch with a big beautiful mansion in the Casablanca Valley, which his great-granddaughter successfully transformed into a boutique winery during the 1990s.

CATRALA

The idyllic Catrala Boutique Vineyard is located in Casablanca Valley. It was recently founded in 2003 and is among Chile's youngest vineyards. Guests will learn about winegrowing utilizing biodynamic and organic farming in a relaxed and family atmosphere. The "Peñuelas" nature reserve full of endemic tree species surrounds the vineyard and lends the area a spicy scent. In this wonderful environment it is easy to forget about daily life meanwhile enjoying Catrala's quality wines.



BODEGAS RE

The family-run winery Bodegas RE is located in Casablanca, between Santiago and Valparaíso. The wine-growing tradition there is in its fifth generation and now combines modernity with the original founder's processes. The wine matures here in so-called "tinajas" (Mapuche barrels made of clay). This process yields a pure wine without the taste from conventional wooden barrels. On a guided tour, guests can learn more about the family's own manufacturing processes and indulge in a tasting.



PEREZ CRUZ

Perez Cruz vineyard is one of the youngest in the Maipo Valley, with its first wines bottled in 2002. It is famous for its striking contemporary architecture, which harmonises with the natural environment. The cellar combines natural light with a sophisticated system of air isolation and circulation, providing ideal environmental conditions for winemaking. Perez Cruz offers a choice of tours which include a tasting of two select 'reserva' wines or the entire Perez Cruz line.

HARAS DE PIRQUE

At Haras de Pirque, located in the upper Maipo Valley, passion for wine is combined with a love of thoroughbred horses. Haras del Pirque encompasses Chile's oldest horse breeding and training establishment, founded in 1892. More than one international trophy winner has emerged from its stables, which long predate the award-winning wines produced from the vineyards planted in the early 1990's. The horse breeding heritage is reflected in the architecture of the modern winery, which takes the shape of a giant horseshoe, set in the foothills of the Andes Mountains. Another attraction is the owner's antique carriage collection displayed on the property.

COUSIÑO MACUL

The traditional family-run winery of Cousiño Macul is located in the Santiago neighbourhood of Peñalolen. Less than 30 minutes by bus from the centre of Santiago, it is one of the oldest and most important wineries in the country, a place where Chilean wine history began and remains intact today. During a tour, visitors learn about all of the various aspects of production, from cultivation through bottling. Of highlight are the candlelit cellar and a collection of old machines and tools.

SANTA RITA

Viña Santa Rita, situated on the slopes of the Maipo Valley not far from Santiago, is known for its special historical significance. During the fight for national liberation, Chilean hero Bernardo O'Higgins, along with 120 of his soldiers, found himself about to be captured by Spanish forces. Fortunately, the local landowner, Doña Paola Jaraquemada, provided refuge to him and his men, allowing the revolution to proceed. The winery's restaurant is named "Doña Paola" in honour of the brave lady and is now protected as a national monument. Featured here, of course, are the Santa Rita wines of the "120" line, named for O'Higgins' 120 soldiers. The

winery's Andean Museum displays an outstanding collection of pre- and post-Colombian native artefacts. Here, visitors will find interesting information about ancient customs of long disappeared people as well as stunning Inca gold and Mapuche silver works.

UNDURRAGA

Don Francisco Undurruga was one of the pioneers of wine-growing in Chile and the founder of Viña Undurruga, located in the heart of the Maipo Valley. In 1885, Don Francisco personally carried the vineyard's first vinestock to Chile from France and Germany. Varieties including Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Riesling, and Gewürztraminer are now cultivated at this vineyard. Export to the USA began in 1903, and today, after more than 120 years, Undurruga sells in more than 60 countries on all five continents. The beautiful 19th century park was designed by the famous French landscape painter Monsieur Pierre Dubois. The winery has a modern wine press, though its cellars date from its founding.

AQUITANIA

The Aquitania Winery is located just outside of Santiago, at the edge of the Andes Mountains. Founded in 1990 by a trio of French wine experts and one Chilean enologist, its vineyards are situated on terroir specially selected for its ideal microclimate (good sunlight, warm days and cool nights, and dry conditions during ripening and harvesting

seasons) and well-drained soil perfect for grape-growing. The winery concentrates on typical Bordeaux grape varieties, producing limited quantities of exceptionally high-quality Cabernet Sauvignon. From its vineyards in the southern Malleco Valley, Viña Aquitania also produces outstanding Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

DOÑA JAVIERA

Viña Doña Javiera is a family business located in the comuna of El Monte, 45 kilometres from Santiago. Formerly called Hacienda San Miguel", it was the birthplace of the Carrera brothers, who played an important role in Chile's independence. The hacienda was declared a Historic Monument of Chile in 1974. Visitors are received in Plaza Mayor del Torreón, part of the historic residence of the vineyard, and are provided a tour of the surrounding park and vineyard, including a tour of an 18th century cellar, where your guide will tell you some anecdotes and stories about occurrences there. You will continue on to the vineyard's panoramic viewpoint offering a wide geographical view of the Rengo Valley.





VIK

This «place of gold», as the area was named by the indigenous population, was founded in 2006 by Norwegian entrepreneur Alexander Vik. Today, visitors can taste the winery's first vintages: outstanding unique blends of Cabernet Sauvignon, Carménère, Syrah, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc.

Activities offered include wine tastings, guided tours, mountain biking, horseback riding, and hiking. There also is a lodge onsite; please see the chapter «Hotels» for further information.

LAPOSTOLLE

The motto of Lapostolle is «Chilean by nature, French by design». This reflects the pairing of Chile's ideal climate and soil with the long winemaking tradition of the French Marnier family, joined together in Viña Casa Lapostolle located in Cunaco. Today considered one of Chile's most renowned wineries, it was opened in 1994 by Alexandra Marnier-Lapostolle, a member of the family behind the famous liquor Grand Marnier.

Lapostolle offers horse riding excursions and wellness treatments in addition to the classical wine tours and tastings.

CASA SILVA

Casa Silva is the oldest vineyard in Colchagua Valley, and its historic wine cellars are among the most beautiful in Chile. The impressive cellars were originally created by the Silva family's forbearer, Emile Bouchon, who immigrated from Bordeaux in 1892. The Silva family's passion for the soil and wine, their concern for the details of winemaking, and their commitment to future generations give the vineyard its style and a personal, distinctive character to every vintage. All of Viña Casa Silva's wines are created from Colchagua Valley grapes.

VIU MANENT

The beautiful Viña Viu Manent is idyllically nestled in the green hills of the Colchagua Valley. Guests are welcomed at La Llovería visitor centre, located in the winery's impressive colonial-era main building. The La Terraza.

and La Cava de Don Miguel restaurants offer excellent local, Catalan and French dishes. Visitors have the opportunity to take the tour through the vineyards in a horse-drawn carriage.

MONTES

A notable feature of Viña Montes is that its modern wine cellar was built and furnished according to the principles of Feng-Shui. Every basic element was given its rightful place in accordance with this ancient Chinese philosophy, assuring harmony and balance – a philosophy mirrored in the vineyard's eco-friendly winemaking process.

Inside the winery, visitors can observe the gravitational system used to move the wines, while outside the winery provides special car tour for an enjoyable visit through the vineyards. The steep hillsides, some with a more than 45-degree incline, provide apt growing conditions for the vineyard's finest grapes.

ERRAZURIZ

Don Maximiano Errazuriz founded this winery in 1870, making it the oldest in Aconcagua Valley, 100 kilometres north of Santiago. Errazuriz himself imported the finest rootstock from France and gradually transformed his land into a world-class vineyard. Today, the distinctive architecture of the winery encloses cellars where the flagship wine, Don Maximiano, is aged for two years in barrels of French oak. Guests will enjoy a tour of the vineyard and are treated to a beautiful panoramic view of the valley.

VIÑA VON SIEBENTHAL

Viña Von Siebenthal is a relatively young winery, founded in 1998 by the Swiss Mauro von Siebenthal. Its three vineyards are located in Panquehue, which lies just west of the Andes in the Aconcagua Valley, and produce primarily Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Carménère, and Petit Verdot. The winery combines state-of-the-art technology with the architectural tradition of the Chilean "casona," the traditional colonial style farmhouse.





Chile is a very safe country, so exploring it by car presents few problems. The people are friendly and helpful, and, especially in the countryside, thefts are virtually unknown. The roads are also generally in good condition, and most of the attractions in Chile can be reached without difficulty in a normal rental car. However, if you want to take on rough terrain (for example high in the Andes), play it safe and arrange for a 4x4 pickup truck or jeep. All-in-all, driving is a very pleasant way to travel.

Self drive trips

ON THE ROAD BETWEEN THE ANDES AND THE PACIFIC



Cross-country tours

Chile is very narrow, with an average east-west extension of only 180km; however, the distance from the northernmost to the southernmost point of the country amounts to 4000km! It is therefore advisable to explore individual regions via automobile, but to travel between major zones of the country by plane. Your rental car will be waiting for you at each airport.

We arrange all the details, including hotel and ferry reservations. We will provide you with maps, detailed route descriptions and precise information regarding interesting attractions, tours, restaurants, hiking tips, and more.

We will be available for you during your entire trip. Our German and English-speaking staff is always at your disposal – around the clock, 365 days a year.

Proposals for driving tours

We have carefully developed the following sample routes, with convenient breaks and stops included. Nevertheless, we are happy to modify any plan to meet your wishes: maybe a shorter trip – or a route off the beaten path in the Andes? Just tell us how long you wish to explore each region, and we will provide you with the best itinerary.





ALTIPLANO

Antofagasta – Iquique – Arica

(6 Days/5 Nights)

Day 1 – Antofagasta

- Airport pick-up in Antofagasta
- Drive along the Pacific Ocean with view of beaches and sand dunes, including La Portada
- Overnight in Antofagasta
- 50 to 100km / 31- to 62mi

Day 2 – Antofagasta – Iquique

- Drive north to Iquique
- Scenic coastal road to Tocopilla
- Panamerican Highway with rock paintings and the Pintados Geoglyphs
- Visit to saltpetre mine «Humberstone»
- Overnight in Iquique
- 500km / 311mi

Day 3 – Iquique – Arica

- Drive north on Panamerican Highway to Arica
- Giant of Atacama, 86m/282ft high rock figure in the desert
- Reserva Natural de Tamarugal
- Overnight in Arica
- 350km/218mi

Day 4 – Arica

- City of Arica
- Museums and beaches
- Azapa Valley with rock paintings, Lluta Valley
- Overnight in Arica

Day 5 – Lauca National Park

- Excursion to Lauca National Park
- Villages of Putre and Parinacota
- Parinacota Volcano
- Chungara Lake (4500m/13,124ft altitude)
- Abundant wild life with alpacas, llamas and many of birds
- Overnight in Arica
- 440km/273mi on paved roads

Day 6 – Arica

- Return your car at the Arica airport



ATACAMA DESERT

Antofagasta – Calama – San Pedro

(7 Days/6 Nights)

Day 1 – Antofagasta

- Airport pick-up in Antofagasta
- Drive along the Pacific Ocean with its beaches and sand dunes, including La Portada
- Continue to Mejillones
- Overnight in Antofagasta
- 100km/62mi on paved roads

Day 2 – Antofagasta – Calama – San Pedro

- Drive to Calama through the desert
- Old railway station Baquedano
- Former saltpetre mine Chacabuco
- Drive to San Pedro de Atacama
- See sunset in the Valle de la Luna (Moon Valley)
- Overnight in San Pedro
- 320km/199mi on paved roads

Day 3 – San Pedro and surroundings

- Surrounding villages
- Sand dunes in the Valle de la Muerte
- Tular and Quito pre-Inca settlements
- Overnight in San Pedro
- 70 to 100km/44 to 62mi on unpaved roads

Day 4 – Salar de Atacama (and Lakes Miscanti y Meniques)

- Drive to historic village Toconao
- Explore the Salar de Atacama
- See flamingos at Laguna Chaxa
- Continue to the Lakes Miscanti and Meniques, 4000m/13,124ft altitude (pick-up or jeep required)
- Overnight in San Pedro
- 120km/75mi to the Salar de Atacama
- 250km/155mi to the lakes (round-trip)



Day 5 – Geysers El Tatio

- Book an optional organised excursion to the Geysers of El Tatio (you have to set off at 4am to see the sunrise and the road could be difficult for those who are not familiar with it, so we do not recommend driving on your own.)
- Overnight in San Pedro

Day 6 – Calama – Tocopilla or Antofagasta

- Drive back to Calama
- Visit the world's largest copper mine Chuquibambilla
- Picturesque village Chiu Chiu with one of the oldest churches in Chile
- Drive to Tocopilla, a very nice beach town on the Pacific Ocean
- Head to Antofagasta
- Overnight in Antofagasta
- Drive 250km / 155mi to Tocopilla and in total 450 km/280mi to Antofagasta on paved roads

Day 7 – Antofagasta

- Return your car at the Antofagasta airport



CENTRAL CHILE

Santiago and the Pacific beaches

(5 Days/4 Nights)

Day 1 – Santiago

- Airport pick-up in Santiago
- Drive through the city and to Cerro San Cristobal for a great view of the city and of the Andes
- Overnight in Santiago
- 50km/31mi on paved roads

(Some travellers are not comfortable driving in Santiago. We also can organize a guided tour to show you the city!)

Day 2 – Pacific Ocean

- Drive to the Pacific Ocean
- Scenic harbour of Valparaíso and Chile's most famous beach resort, Viña del Mar
- Overnight in Viña del Mar or Valparaíso
- 150km/93mi on paved roads

Day 3 – Pacific Ocean– Santiago

- Drive along the Pacific
- See quaint coastal towns: Algarrobo, Quisco and Isla Negra
- Visit the house of Pablo Neruda, the great Chilean poet and Nobel Prize winner
- Drive back to Santiago
- Overnight in Santiago
- 320km/199mi on paved roads

Day 4 – Wineries around Santiago

- Drive to the vineyards of Santa Rita and Perez Cruz
- Wine tasting
- Maipo Valley, which leads deep into the Andes
- Cajón del Maipo and surroundings
- In the evening drive back to Santiago
- Overnight in Santiago
- 220km/137mi

Day 5 – Santiago

- Return your car at the Santiago airport



LAKES DISTRICT

The route of forests and lakes

(7 Days/6 Nights)

Day 1 – Temuco

- Airport pick-up in Temuco
- Visit Temuco
- Drive to La Baita Conguillío in the heart of Conguillío National Park
- Overnight at La Baita Conguillío
- 113km/120mi (via S-51 and S-61)

Day 2 - Conguillio National Park

- Visit the Conguillío National Park
- Llama Volcano
- Huge lava fiels and Araucaria tree (Monkey Puzzle Tree)
- Overnight at La Baita Conguillío
- unpaved roads

Day 3 – Villarrica – Pucón

- Drive on scenic back roads to Villarrica
- Active Villarrica Volcano
- Drive up to the volcano
- Natural hot springs
- Rafting
- Overnight in Pucón
- 115km/120mi (via S-61 and S-51)

Day 4 - Pucón - Valdivia

- Drive to Valdivia
- Panguipulli Lake
- Drive along the river to the Pacific Ocean
- Old Spanish fortresses
- Scenic boat tour along the many rivers
- Overnight in Valdivia
- 200km/124mi total (60km/37mi on paved roads)

Day 5 - Valdivia - Puerto Varas

- Drive south on the Panamericana to Puerto Varas
- Frutillar and visit to museum showcasing the history of the German settlement in this region
- Overnight in Puerto Varas.
- 220 km/137mi on paved roads



Day 6 - Volcano Osorno - Todos los Santos Lake

- Drive along Lake Llanquihue
- Drive up the Volcano Osorno. Enjoy great views!
- Petrohue waterfalls and Todos los Santos Lake
- In the evening drive back to Puerto Varas
- Overnight in Puerto Varas
- 200km/124mi total (140km/87mi on paved roads)

Day 7 - Puerto Montt

- Visit to the harbour town of Puerto Montt
- Return your car at the Puerto Montt airport

Extension Chiloé Island

(3 Days/2 Nights)

Day 7 - Puerto Montt - Chiloé Island

- Continue towards the Island of Chiloé
- Cross the Channel of Chacao by ferry
- Continue to Castro, famous for its houses on stilts
- Overnight in Castro
- 230km/143mi on paved roads

Day 8 - National Park Chiloé - Ancud

- Drive to the National Park of Chiloé aside the Pacific Ocean
- Self-guided nature trails with information about native plants and trees
- Visit the only penguin colony of South America, where Humboldt and Magallenic penguins reside side by side
- Secluded sandy beaches
- In the evening drive to Ancud
- Overnight in Ancud
- 150km/93mi total (90km/56mi on paved roads)

Day 9 - Puerto Montt

- Return your car at the Puerto Montt airport
- 100km/62mi on paved roads



Chilean and Argentinean Lakes Districts

(8 Days/7 Nights)

Day 1 - Temuco

- Airport pick-up in Temuco
- Visit Temuco
- Drive to La Baita Conguillío in the heart of Conguillío National Park
- Overnight at La Baita Conguillío
- 113km/120mi (via S-51 and S-61)

Day 2 - Villarrica - Pucón

- Drive on scenic back roads to Villarrica
- Active Villarrica Volcano
- Drive up to the volcano
- Natural hot springs
- Rafting
- Overnight in Pucón
- 115km/120mi (via S-61 and S-51)

Day 3 - Pucón – San Martín de los Andes

- Cross the Andes to Argentina
- Picturesque route with marvellous views of the surrounding volcanoes
- Cross Tromen Pass and see the Llaima Volcano
- Discover millenary Araucaria trees
- In the evening arrive at the beautiful village of San Martín de los Andes

- Overnight in San Martín de los Andes
- 200km/124mi total (50km/31mi on paved roads)

Day 4 - San Martín de los Andes – Bariloche

- Drive to Bariloche via the Cordoba Pass and «Marlboro Valley»
- Follow the picturesque coastal road of Lake Nahuel Huapi
- Drive up Cerro Otto and enjoy the spectacular view of the surrounding lakes
- Overnight in Bariloche
- 160km/99mi total (60km/37mi on paved roads)

Day 5 - Bariloche – Monte Tronador

- Drive to Mount Tronador with its giant glaciers
- Beautiful route along Lake Mascardi
- In the evening return to Bariloche
- Overnight in Bariloche
- 150km/93mi total (80km/50mi on paved roads)



Day 6 - Bariloche – Puerto Varas

- Cross the Andes and drive to Puerto Varas via Puyehue Lake
- Visit the village of Frutillar and its museum of German colonization
- Arrival in Puerto Varas in the evening
- Overnight in Puerto Varas
- 300km/186mi total (260km/162mi on paved roads)

Day 7 - Volcano Osorno - Todos los Santos Lake

- Drive along Lake Llanquihue
- Drive up the Volcano Osorno. Enjoy great views!
- Petrohue waterfalls and Lake Todos los Santos
- In the evening drive back to Puerto Varas
- Overnight in Puerto Varas
- 200km/124mi total (140km/87mi on paved roads)

Day 8 - Puerto Montt

- Visit to Puerto Montt, the «Gateway to Patagonia»
- Return your car at the Puerto Montt airport
- 20km/12mi on paved roads

The volcano route

(8 Days/7 Nights)

Day 1 - Temuco - Huilo Huilo

- Pick up your rental car in Temuco
- Visit Temuco and its interesting markets
- Drive to Villarrica and walk alongside the beautiful lake with views of the Villarrica Volcano
- Drive to Huilo Huilo Nature Reserve
- Overnight in the park
- 180km/112mi (50km/31mi on gravel roads)

Day 2 - Huilo Huilo Nature Reserve

- Discover this beautiful park and hike to its mighty waterfall
- Overnight in the park

Day 3 - Huilo Huilo Nature Reserve

- Take part in one of the many excursions offered by the hotels: horse riding, canopy, mountain biking, hiking, or ascensions to the surrounding volcanoes
- Overnight in the park

Day 4 – Day 4 - Huilo Huilo Natural Preserve – San Martín de los Andes

- Drive to Puerto Fuy and cross the lake by car-ferry.
- Cross the border to Argentina and go on to San Martín de Los Andes.



- Overnight in Hotel Le Chatelet
- 60km/37mi gravel road

Day 5 - San Martín de Los Andes - Puyehue

- Take the wonderful «Route of the seven lakes»
- Visit the beautiful village Villa La Angostura, situated between blue lakes and high mountains
- Cross the border to Chile and go on to Puyehue; see the Puyehue and Antillanca volcanoes.
- Relax in the «Termas de Puyehue»
- Overnight in Hotel Termas de Puyehue
- 180km/112mi total (40km/25mi on gravel roads)

Day 6 - Puyehue – Puerto Varas

- Drive around Lake Llanquihue
- Visit to the village of Frutillar and its museum of German colonization
- Wonderful volcanoes Osorno, Calbuco and Puntiagudo
- Walk through the nice town of Puerto Varas
- Overnight in Puerto Varas

Day 7 - Saltos de Petrohue and Todos los Santos Lake

- Petrohue waterfalls and the Todos los Santos Lake.
- Ride on a boat on Todos los Santos Lake
- Return to Puerto Varas in the evening
- Overnight in Puerto Varas
- 140km / 86mi (Petrohue and return)

Day 8 - Puerto Varas – Puerto Montt

- Drive Puerto Montt
- Visit the town and the harbour of Angelmó
- Return your car at airport Puerto Montt
- 20km/12mi



CARRETERA AUSTRAL

Northern Carretera Austral

(8 Days/7 Nights)

Day 1 - Puerto Varas - Bariloche

- Reception of the rental car in Puerto Varas
- Drive to Puyehue National park
- Border crossing to Argentina
- Drive along the Nahuel Huapi Lake to Bariloche
- Lodging in Bariloche
- 330km/205mi on paved roads

Day 2 - Bariloche

- Trip around the Nahuel Huapi Lake
- Visit the Llao Llao peninsula
- Campanario Hill with beautiful views
- Lodging in Bariloche
- 50km/31mi on paved roads

Day 3 - Bariloche - Futaleufu

- Drive to Los Cipreses through Esquel and Trevelin
- Border crossing to Chile
- Continue to Futaleufú, best known as the white-water and rafting paradise
- Short hike to the vantage point of the Futaleufú River
- Lodging in Futaleufú
- 350km/218mi on paved roads

Day 4 - Futaleufu - El Pangué

- Drive through dense natural forests to Villa Santa Lucia
- Photo stop on the Yelcho Lake
- Continue your trip along the legendary Carretera Austral
- Lodging in El Pangué Lodge
- Refreshing swim in the heated outdoor pool
- 180km/112mi on gravel roads

Day 5 - El Pangué

- Hike, ride a horse, or fish in the beautiful surroundings of the lodge
- Enjoy the evening with a refreshing swim in the heated outdoor pool
- Lodging in El Pangué Lodge



Southern Carretera Austral

(6 Days/5 Nights)

Day 6 - El Pangue - Puyuhuapi

- Continue your trip along the Carretera Austral until reaching Queulat National Park
- Hike to the sightseeing points of the hanging glacier
- Drive to Puyuhuapi
- Lodging in Puyuhuapi
- 120km/75mi on gravel roads

Day 7 - Puyuhuapi - Coyhaique

- Drive through an untouched nature to the city of Coyhaique
- Lodging in Coyhaique
- 170km/106mi on gravel roads, 50km/31mi on paved roads

Day 8 - Coyhaique

- Drive to Balmaceda
- Rental car drop-off at the airport
- 55 km/34mi on paved roads

Day 1 - Coyhaique - Puerto Tranquilo

- Reception of rental car in Coyhaique or Balmaceda airport
- Drive the southern Carretera Austral in direction of Puerto. Tranquilo
- Stop at the Cerro Castillo Nature Park
- Boat trip on the General Carrera Lake to the «Marble Cathedral»
- Lodging in Puerto Tranquilo
- 70km/44mi on paved roads, 150km/93mi on gravel roads

Day 2 - Puerto Tranquilo - Puerto Bertrand

- Drive along the General Carrera Lake
- Enjoy the spectacular nature
- Opportunity to hike, fish or visit the Baker Waterfalls
- Lodging in Puerto Bertrand
- 70 km/44mi on gravel roads

Day 3 – Puerto Bertrand - Cochrane - Puerto Guadal

- Visit to the huemul park of Tamango
- Drive back to General Carrera Lake
- Lodging in the Terra Luna Lodge
- Hot tubs
- 125 km/78mi on paved roads



TORRES DEL PAINE

Torres del Paine National Park

(6 Days/5 Nights)

Day 4 - Puerto Guadal

- Participate in the various excursions of the lodge: hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, or a helicopter flight to the San Rafael Glacier
- Hot tubs
- Lodging in the Terra Luna Lodge

Day 5 - Puerto Guadal - Puerto Ibañez

- Drive along the General Carrera Lake to Chile Chico
- Cross the lake (approx. 2.5 hrs) via ferry to Puerto Ibañez
- Lodging in Puerto Ibañez
- 110 km/68mi on gravel roads

Day 6 - Puerto Ibañez - Coyhaique / Balmaceda

- Drive along the Carretera Austral back to Coyhaique or Balmaceda
- Rental car drop-off
- 50km/31mi on gravel roads, 70km/44mi on paved roads

Day 1 - Punta Arenas - Puerto Natales

- Pick up car at the Punta Arenas airport
- Drive north through the Patagonian Pampa towards Puerto Natales
- Overnight in Puerto Natales
- 300 km/186mi on paved roads

Day 2 - Puerto Natales - Torres del Paine National Park

- Drive to Torres del Paine National Park
- See en route native wild life
- Enjoy the mighty Paine Massif from several viewpoints
- Lodging in the park
- 150 km/93mi on unpaved roads

Day 3 - Torres del Paine National Park

- Circuit in the national park
- Huge mountains, lakes and rivers
- Grey Glacier and Grey Lake with huge icebergs
- Guanacos and many different species of birds
- Lodging in the park
- 120 km/75mi on unpaved roads



Day 4 - Torres del Paine National Park

- Time for your own activities: hiking, horseback riding
- Drive to the Laguna Azul
- Lodging in the park

Day 5 - Torres del Paine - Punta Arenas

- Drive back to Punta Arenas via Puerto Natales
- Visit Punta Arenas
- Overnight in Punta Arenas
- 440km/273mi total (300km/186mi on paved roads)

Day 6 - Punta Arenas

- Nao Victoria Museum
- Rental car drop-off at the Punta Arenas airport

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- You will need to present your passport along with your driver's license.
- The minimum age to rent a car is 22 years.
- A valid credit card will be needed to rent a car. The owner of the credit card has to personally be present.
- Without proper permission you are not allowed to drive outside of Chile. Special permissions are available.
- A rental day is 24 hours.
- The pick-up station grants the customer one hour of delay to collect the car. After this hour, the reservation will be considered a no-show, with the exception being cases in which the customer has informed the rental agency about his delay so as to modify the booking.
- Conditions may change without prior notice.
- If you would like to drop off the rental car at a location other than where you picked it up, a return fee must be paid. This fee varies according to driving distance and vehicle class. Please ask us for the details.



With its more than 4,000km of coastline and offshore islands, Chile offers spectacular cruises that reach the proverbial end of the world, amidst Antarctic's eternal ice. Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego boost imposing glaciers and exotic wildlife, while the fjords on the Gulf of Corcovado offer views of picturesque fishing villages surrounded by magnificent mountains. Come and have a look!

 **BACK**

travel **Art**
C H I L E

Cruises

THROUGH FJORDS AND ETERNAL ICE



ESKAR PTO. NATALES PTO. EDEN XII REGION

SKORPLOS III



CRUCEROS AUSTRALIS

ICY WATERS OF PATAGONIA AND TIERRA DEL FUEGO

History and legend meet on this cruise. Join us on the routes of the daring navigators of the 16th century, such as Fernando de Magallanes, Sir Francis Drake and Captain Sarmiento de Gamboa. You are certain to be enchanted by the magical world of the forest, sea, and ice, as well as by the wealth of flora and fauna.

The fleet of Cruceros Australis includes the elegant cruise ships Stella Australis and as of January 2018, the Ventus Australis. Both ships provide a very high standard of safety and comfort. The outer cabins offer stunning views of the glaciers, forests and snow-covered mountains. The on-board guide and Zodiac excursions of Stella Australis have received very good client evaluations over the last years!

Every day of your adventure is crowned with delicious culinary specialties, such as oysters, king crabs, fish, Argentine beef, and the unique flavour of Patagonian lamb. En route, you will also have the opportunity to study Patagonia and its people through documentary films, informative slide lectures and books.

Punta Arenas – Ushuaia

(5 Days/4 Nights)

Day 1 – Punta Arenas

After checking in at Punta Arenas in the afternoon, your captain will welcome you on board with a cocktail prior to setting off on the breathtaking journey through the Magellan Strait and the Beagle Channel, all the way to the 'End of the World'.

Day 2 – Ainsworth Bay – Isla Tucker

At Ainsworth Bay, reached via the Almirantazgo Channel, you can take an exploratory stroll to a beaver dam in the middle of the Magellanic Forest. With a bit of luck, you will be able to observe elephant seals along the beach. Later, you head for Tucker Island, where Magellanic penguins and cormorants can be observed from the boat. During April, when the penguins are migrating, an alternative excursion is made to a glacier in Brookes Bay.

Day 3 – Pia Glacier – Glacier Alley

Travelling through the main section of the Beagle Channel, you are taken to Pia Glacier Bay. A viewpoint offering spectacular panoramas of the glacier tongue, extending from the mountains down to the sea, can be reached by a short walk. This unforgettable experience is followed by a journey through the north-west arm of the Beagle Channel, also known as Glacier Alley.



Day 4 – Cape Horn – Wulaia Bay

Today's destination is Cape Horn National Park, a UNESCO World Biosphere. In the afternoon, you will go ashore at Wulaia Bay, once a region with populous indigenous settlements and that is today renowned for the impressive beauty of its landscapes. A stroll through the Magellanic forest provides insight into the variety of native flora, including lenga and coihue trees, as well as ferns.

Day 5 – Ushuaia

Arrive in Ushuaia, Argentina's most prominent town in Tierra del Fuego. Your cruise ends here, where you disembark at around 8 am.



Ushuaia –Punta Arenas

(4 days/3 nights)

Day 1 – Ushuaia, Argentina

After checking in at Ushuaia, you will be welcomed on board your cruise ship, after which your breathtaking journey through the Magellan Strait and the Beagle Channel at the «End of the World» will commence.

Day 2 – Cape Horn – Wulaia Bay

Your first destination is Cape Horn National Park, which UNESCO has nominated a World Biosphere. (Landing is dependent upon the weather.) The cape is well-described by the evocative epithet «The End of the World» and is imbued with countless legends. In the afternoon, you will go ashore at Wulaia Bay, once an area with sizeable indigenous

settlements. The region is renowned for the impressive beauty of its natural geography. A stroll through the Magellanic forest provides insight into the variety of the native flora, which includes lenga and coihue trees, as well as ferns.

Day 3 – Trip to a glacier: a first-hand experience!

Today the cruise winds through the Brecknock, Ocasión, Cockburn, and Magdalena Channels before arriving at the supremely impressive Agostini Sound. The walk along the beach and through a Magellanic forest provides glimpses of a shiny white object peaking through the forest trees – soon revealed to be Águila Glacier, which you can approach up-close.

Day 4 – Isla Magdalena

Isla Magdalena is reached early in the morning. On the way to the island's lighthouse, you will see a colony of Magellanic penguins, except during April, when the penguins are migrating. Instead, this month you will visit a sea lion colony on Marta Island. At about 11:30 am, your cruise ship reaches Punta Arenas, the end-point of your journey.

NOTE: *The two cruises can be combined into one single cruise.*



SKORPIOS

The Skorpios vessels are built to cruise through the icy waters of the Chilean fjord landscape. Skorpios II (capacity: 160 passengers) and Skorpios III (capacity: 110 passengers) have open decks, providing wonderful opportunities for viewing the magical landscapes. The cosy cabins on the five decks are decorated with Chilean wood and have comfortable bathrooms, plus a stereo and TV in each room. Meals are offered in a spacious restaurant, where an international cuisine is accompanied by a choice wine selection from Chilean vineyards. Skorpios III was built in 1995 and has excellent facilities.

The open bar service is available for wine, soft drinks and spirits throughout the cruise at no additional charge.

The crew is multi-lingual.

Skorpios II - Chonos route

(6 days/5 nights)

This 1,300km/812mi-long cruise between Puerto Montt and the San Rafael Lagoon takes you to a mighty witness of the last Ice Age. The moment your Skorpios ship casts off from shore, nature in all its splendour will embrace you. Numerous islands and boulders, the legendary network of channels in southern Chile, picturesque settlements, fjords, towering mountains, and dense forests will all accompany you on your journey far from civilisation. The ancient San Rafael Glacier with its wall of ice, around 80m/262ft high, is truly a magical sight. The hot pools of the Quitalco Fjord and the varied marine life, easily spotted through the crystal clear water, make for additional attractions.

CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

■ San Rafael Glacier

This «tidewater» glacier, the glacier closest to the equator of any on earth, is located at 45°- 46° southern latitude, about 400 sea miles south of Puerto Montt. UNESCO declared the San Rafael National Park a World Biosphere in 1979.

The glacier is roughly 30,000 years old, and its directional flow is caused by pressure from the San Valentin Ice Field. Its icy path – around 15km/9mi long – ends at the San Rafael Lagoon, where it calves into the sea water. Along its front, the glacier is around 2.4km/ 1.5mi wide, and its walls of ice rise over 80m/262ft out of the water. Below the surface, the ice continues down for another 230m/755ft. The colours of the ice vary from dark blue and light blue, to shades of green, white and grey.

■ Fjords, mountains, fishing, and thermal pools

Quitalco Fjord is surrounded by mountains and dense vegetation, and there are thermal pools that are exclusively accessible to the passengers of the Skorpios vessels. You have the opportunity to bathe in the pools, go on boat trips, fish, or simply stroll through untouched forests. The entire region is a nature reserve.

■ Chiloé Island

The routes followed by the Skorpios vessels lead past the fishing villages of Puerto Aguirre and Queilén. Chiloé's capital Castro is also a captivating stopping point, with beautiful craftwork made from wood and wool available for purchase.

These latitudes boast an impressive range of flora and fauna: sea lions, gulls, ducks, dolphins, and many other fascinating animal species.



Day 1 – Puerto Montt and Quemchi

Departing from the Skorpios terminal, you will pass through the town of Calbuco, cross the Gulf of Ancud and arrive in Quemchi, Chiloé by afternoon. You will be able to explore the picturesque village as well as the museum/house of Chilean author Francisco Coloane. Around midnight, you will continue the cruise along Chiloé's Corcovado Gulf.

Day 2 – Puerto Aguirre

The journey continues along the Moraleda and Ferronave Channels to the fishing village of Puerto Aguirre, where you can make a brief stop on shore. Your vessel departs at around 13.00 hrs, and then journeys through the Ferronave, Pilcomayo and Costa Channels.

At around 17.30 hrs you will arrive at Punta Pescadores, where you can observe the beautiful Patagonian flora and fauna during a walk along the beautiful stone beach. Next you continue southwards and anchor is set about 30km/19mi from San Rafael Glacier.

Day 3 – San Rafael

An early morning departure through the Elephant Channel takes you to San Rafael Lagoon, where, about one mile before reaching the glacier, you transfer to smaller boats so that you can cruise along the multi-coloured ice formations and get daringly close to the glacier's wall (weather permitting). The journey to Quitalco Fjord, your destination for the night, continues in the evening.

Day 4 – Thermal pools

You have the option of relaxing in a thermal pool after breakfast, and, if the weather permits, you can explore the Quitalco Fjord by motorboat. The cruise continues throughout the night towards Chiloé, travelling through the Moraleda and Pérez Norte Channels.

Day 5 – Chiloé Archipelago

Today, the ship explores the Leucayec Channel, during which you will also see parts of Melinka Island while passing the Chonos Archipelago. Continuing the journey, you will travel through the Gulf of Corcovado, keeping close to the eastern seaboard of Chiloé Island until arriving at Islote Conejos on the Queilen Canal. Disembarking at 11.00 hrs, you will navigate around the small island in motorboats and observe penguins and other sea birds. Two hours later you will continue through the islands of Lemuy and Chelín. At 17.00 hrs, you will arrive at Dalcahue. Here you will have time to explore the town. The handicraft market and the wooden church are popular places to visit. At around 23.00 hrs, the ship will start its sail back to Puerto Montt. This evening you are invited to a farewell party with a captain's dinner.

Day 6 – Puerto Montt

Disembarkation is after breakfast, when you will leave with plenty of wonderful memories from your trip.

NOTE: *This schedule and programme is subject to change, depending on weather conditions and forces beyond our control (forces of nature).*



Skorpios III - Kaweskar explorer route

(4 days/3 nights)

CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

■ Amalia Glacier

During the journey along Peel Inlet, you reach Amalia Glacier, located in the middle of the Southern Ice Field. The sight of the glacier's descent from the Andes is extremely impressive. The glacier's front is about 1km/0.6mi wide and reaches up to 50m/164ft in height. Later, you also travel through Calvo Inlet, where you will see another six glaciers and floating icebergs in many shapes and colours. Specially suited motorboats will take you close to the icebergs, where you will toast to your journey with a glass of whiskey containing ice cubes thousands of years old.

■ Flora and Fauna

The region's natural environment is characterised by its wide variety of native animals and plants that delight every nature-lover. Many bird species and their nesting places on the steep island cliffs can be observed during your cruise. You will also frequently be accompanied by dolphins and tuna that swim alongside the vessel.

Departures are on Tuesdays and Fridays.



Pre-Cruise additional night and excursion

Passengers may book an additional night onboard to join an excursion to Torres del Paine National Park with a visit to the Milodón Cave (price upon request).

Day 1 – Puerto Natales

Between 17.00 and 18.00 hours the ship will depart for the captivating landscape of the Angostura Kirke estuary, before heading further north through Morla Vicuña Channel, Union Bay, and the Collingwood and Sarmiento Channels. A welcome cocktail and dinner will be served to start off this lovely journey.

Day 2 – Southern Patagonian channels

At 08.00 hours, you will arrive at Amalia Glacier. As the ship approaches the glacier you will have a wonderful panoramic view. The ship will continue onward toward El Brujo Glacier, where you will arrive at about 1 .00 hours and disembark to explore the area. Later, the ship will continue to Calvo Fjord. There you will see four different glaciers and take excursions by small motorboat. The main ship will make a close approach to Calvo Glacier (only if weather conditions permit – subject to change). At about 20.00 hrs, the ship will set sail toward Montañas Fjord.

Day 3 – Montañas Fjord

After breakfast you will visit Montañas Fjord, where you will gaze upon five glaciers that flow down from the Sarmiento Mountains to the sea. The journey continues to Alsina Glacier, where you can take a short hike. Next is Bernal Glacier, where you can hike through the native forest and over moraines to the base of the glacier. The hiking path even leads past a small lagoon!

You will also visit Herman Glacier, cruise in its bay and admire the beauty of the area and multicoloured icebergs (this trip is dependent on the tide). In the late afternoon, the ship will depart Montañas Fjord for Puerto Natales. This evening you are invited to a farewell party with a captain's dinner.

Day 4 – Puerto Natales

Disembarkation takes place between 08.00 and 09.30 hours.

NOTE: *Weather conditions can impact the plan of this journey. The price includes: four meals daily (breakfast, lunch, tea, and dinner), open bar for both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, and the aforementioned excursions.*



WHALESOUND

BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTRE FOR WHALES

Whalesound has been researching the ocean fauna of the Magellan Strait since 1999. The organisation's base is on the island of San Carlos III, where humpback whales gather annually between December and April in search of food and mates. During this season, Whalesound also offers excursions for tourists on its expedition vessel, providing a unique opportunity to experience whales up-close. Accompanied by scientific researchers during an excursion on an inflatable Zodiac boat, visitors are brought almost within touching distance of these peaceful giants of the ocean. With a little bit of luck, you will not only witness the humpbacks descending into the deep and coming up for air, but also catch a glimpse of a mighty tail fin emerging from the water – a superb photo opportunity!

Whalesound programme

(3 Days/2 Nights)

Day 1— Punta Arenas — Magellan Strait — Isla Carlos III
In the morning, depart from Punta Arenas to Bahia Punta Carrera, where you will climb on board your ship.

At around 10.00 hrs, you will start the navigation through the Magellan Strait to Isla Carlos III. You will pass by important historical points including Fort Bulnes, the lighthouse Isidoro and the marine park Francisco Coloane.

In the late afternoon, before your arrival at Isla Carlos III Ecocamp at around 19.30 hrs, you can spot humpback whales swimming in the waters. After a welcome drink, you can visit the camp's observatory and listen to a scientific talk. You will finish the day with a nice dinner.



Day 2 – Whale watching and Santa Ines Glacier

After breakfast, you will start your trip to explore the rich flora and fauna. Guided by an expert, you will observe humpback whales that return to the same spot every year. These whales have been registered and can be identified by marine biologists. You will also observe two colonies of sea lions that inhabit the same area and visit the majestic, towering Santa Ines Glacier that calves into the sea. The blue shimmering ice will fascinate you. After a stop at Seno Barbara, you will return to Isla Carlos III.

Day 3 – Islote Rupert

In the morning, you will start the navigation to Islote Rupert across from Isla Carlos III. This little island is home to a large penguin colony that you will observe in its natural habitat. You will then navigate through the Magellan Strait back to Bahia Punta Carrera, where you will disembark at around 18.00 hrs. A transfer will take you to your hotel.

NOTE: *The camp does not have private bathrooms, but there are three bathrooms for five Domo-tents (double rooms).*

Besides this 3.5-day programme, there are also packages with durations of two or four days, and a canoe expedition is also available.



ANTARCTICA XXI

AIR-CRUISE TO ANTARCTICA

The Antarctica XXI's Air-Cruise Classic offers exclusive expeditions by airplane and cruise ship to Antarctica - a special opportunity to encounter the White Continent! You will fly over the infamous Drake Passage in less than two hours and join an expedition cruise onboard the ice-going vessel Ocean Nova, visiting the best wildlife sites along the Antarctic Peninsula. The flight and cruise adventure includes many activities, with several daily landings and lectures given by our Antarctica specialists.

Air-cruise classic Antarctica

(7 Days/6 Nights)

Day 1 - Arrival in Punta Arenas

Upon your arrival at Punta Arenas, you will be welcomed at the airport and transferred to Hotel Rey Don Felipe. In the afternoon, you will meet your expedition mates and receive instructions concerning the guidelines that should be followed in Antarctica as well as the procedures for entering and exiting the Zodiac boat. Later, you will enjoy a welcome dinner at the José Nogueira Hotel, a French-style mansion over one hundred years old.

Day 2 - Flight to Antarctica

Your Antarctic adventure will begin with a two-hour flight from Punta Arenas to King George Island (South Shetland Islands). After disembarking the plane, you will visit the Chilean Frei Base and the Russian Bellingshausen Base. Later, the group will

gather at the beach on Fildes Bay, where a Zodiac boat will take you to our expedition vessel for embarkation.

Day 3-6 - Unforgettable Days on the White Continent

While cruising between the South Shetland Islands and the western coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, sailing along ice-filled fjords and between spectacular icebergs, you will enjoy the company of sea birds, penguins, seals, and whales. Your journey southwards includes visits to some of the most magnificent spots on the White Continent, including Livingston Island, Port Lockroy, Petermann Island, Paradise Bay, and Cuverville and Deception Islands, among others. The destination of the cruise is the crossing of the Lemaire Channel at latitude 65° S.

The adventure will include many activities, such as several daily landings, cruises in Zodiac boats and lectures onboard.

Day 7 - Return flight to Punta Arenas

Return to King George Island where you will disembark at the Chilean Frei Base and board your flight back to Punta Arenas. At the airport in Punta Arenas, you either take a connecting flight to your next destination or a transfer to the city centre to spend an additional night.

NOTE: This itinerary is subject to change due to weather conditions in the Antarctic region. Flexibility is an essential component of any expedition with Antarctica XXI. Programmes of 5 and 8 days are also available.

CONTACT

info@travelart.com

www.travelart.com



**Apoquindo 3000, 4th floor, Las Condes
Santiago de Chile
Telephone: +56 2 2437 5660**

www.travelart.com/en/productmanual/



Av. Apoquindo 3000, 4th floor
Santiago de Chile
telephone +56 2 2437 5660
info@travelart.com

