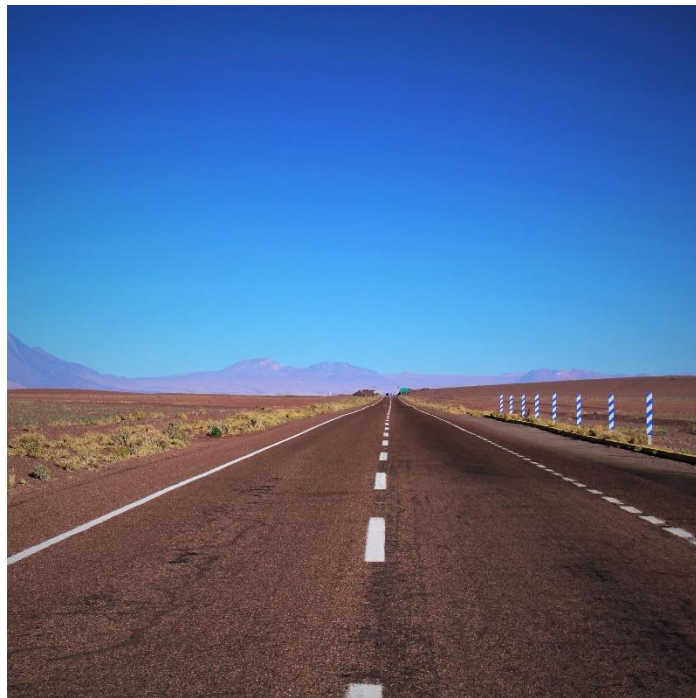


Travel Coach ☀️ *Chile*

“The highlights of Atacama in 5 days”

Discover San Pedro de Atacama and its region





This itinerary is ideal for a long week-end because it includes the best the tours of the region while considering the altitude acclimatization, which will enable you to get the most of your trip in Atacama Desert

| Day | Date | Site | Pension | | |
|-----|-------|---------------------------------|---------|---|---|
| | | | B | L | D |
| 1 | Day 1 | Arrival and Moon Valley | | | |
| 2 | Day 2 | Rainbow Valley and Laguna Cejar | | | |
| 3 | Day 3 | Altiplanic Lagoons and biking | X | | |
| 4 | Day 4 | Salar de Tara | X | X | |
| 5 | Day 5 | Geysers and return | X | | |

B : breakfast; **L** : lunch ; **D** : dinner

Contact

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Day 1 **Arrival and Moon Valley**

Once arrived at Calama airport, after picking up your luggage, head to the exit where someone from the transfer Agency will wait for you and take you to your Hotel.

During the afternoon you will have some time to eat in town and around 14h45, you should head to the agency for the tour departure to the Moon Valley. Please consider that once the sun sets, it's getting cold and it's recommended to have warm clothes (jacket + pullover). You will be back in town around 18h30.

Bring 3.000 per person for the entrance.

The tour will start by the Salt Mountain Range in the Atacama Desert, the most arid place in the world, to see one of the picturesque point: the Moon Valley. The name already gives you a clue of how the landscape looks like, ruled by the rock formations shaped by erosion, the salt cloaks over the ground and viewings that make you feel like if you were in another planet.

You will go across the valley, visiting its famous rock formations: the Tres Marías, the Cañón, the Amphitheater, and the Coyote Stone. Finally, you will enjoy the sunset from a natural mirador, where you can see how the desert changes its colors, with great volcanoes in the horizon, offering a speechless spectacle.

The Moon Valley is located at 13km from San Pedro and at 2250m high. It's a natural sanctuary made of dry lakes, in where the salt composition of these covers with a beautiful white mantle; escarpments of all green, blue, red, yellow colors surprising with the most diverse forms and which the sun makes vary its tones in thousand different forms during the day

Day 2 **Rainbow Valley and Cejar Lagoons**

For your second day, in the morning, you will visit the Rainbow valley, this tour will bring you to a totally different kind of place, different from the desert landscape, in a fresh canyon. The tour will pick you up between 8h and 8h40 at your hotel. You will be back in town around 13h30.

Please consider a 3.000 entrance fee per person.

Your trip will start with the visit of Yerbabuenas area, which is of historical importance because of the presence of some petroglyphs. Indigenous tribes used to cross this place from North-East Argentina to Altiplanic Bolivia, in order to reach Pacific Ocean.

Then you will reach the so-called Rainbow Valley, a canyon that shows different colors due to the presence of various minerals. From there you will have a short walk to enjoy the landscape and then have a snack.

During the afternoon, you will have the chance to see the breath-taking lagoons Cejar and Tebenquiche. Take your swimsuit and towel in can you want to swim in one of the lagoon to enjoy the floating effect. It is not recommended to stay more than 45 minutes in the pool since it is better not to expose yourself a long time to the water. Children below 6 should not enter the pool. You should head to the agency at 14h50. The tour will bring you back to your hotel around 19h15.

Consider entrance fee of 15.000 per person.

During this tour, you will visit a serie of lagoons located in the middle of the salt desert of Atacama, the widest desert of Chile. You will have the chance to see Ojos del Salar, 2 big pools of freshwater in which you can swim if you want to. Then, you will visit the Tebenquiche

Lagoon, where you can walk around to enjoy amazing views on the desert and the surrounding mountains. Finally, you will discover the famous lagoons Cejar and Piedra. You will have to opportunity to swim in the latter, in order to enjoy the same floating effect as if you would be in the dead sea. Last but not least, you will be offered a cocktail watching sunset in the desert.

Day 3

Altiplanic Lagoons

A van will pick you up at your hostel between 7h et 7h30, to take you to an expedition to the heart of the Altiplano and the Andes. Breakfast is included. Prepare clothes that can protect you from the wind. It might be pretty cold up there whereas at the Salar de Atacama it will be warm. Don't forget sun cream, hat, comfortable shoes.

You will be back in town around 13h30. Bring 4.500 per person for the entrance.

In addition to be the tour that enables you to get the most of the region, it's ideal for altitude acclimatization since you will go up to 4300m at slow pace.

You will go out from San Pedro de Atacama to the south, going across the basin of the Atacama Salt Flat. First, you will visit Toconao town, its San Lucas Church and its old orchards. Then, you will go to the Atacama Salt Flat, the largest salt flat in Chile and the third one in the world. There, you will walk through the trails of the Chaxa Lagoon, habitat of the three flamingo species present in Chile: Andean, Chilean and James.

The trip goes on to the Altiplano, where you will visit the Altiplanic Lagoons, called Miscanti Lagoon and Miñiques Lagoon, placed at the bottom of volcanoes and the Andes. Their unique color-scheme of intense blue and the presence of beautiful vicunas, create a magic natural scenery. You head further up to Salar de Talar.

During this trip you should have the opportunity to see flamingos, guanacos, zorros and local birds.

Finally, you will visit Socaire town, kown for its pre-Hispanic farming terraces.

In the afternoon, in order to get to know San Pedro, it is suggested sightseeing around the town and visit the Pukara de Quitar (by foot) and/or to Quebrada del Diablo (by bike). If you want head to the Quebrada del Diablo you should rent a bike in town (around 6.000 clp per bike). Take some cash for the entrance (around 6.000 clp per person for the 2 sites).

The Pukara de Quitar, is located at 2,7 km north of San Pedro. Walk up the Domingo Atienza street. The pukara is a fortress that has been built in XII century by Atacameños. If you decide to walk to the top, you will reach a mirador (40 min to the top by foot) from which you can have a nice view on the whole oasis of San Pedro.

Then you can head to the Quebrada del Diablo, which is located a few kms further the Pukara. It's a fresh escape from town where you will enjoy some nice landscapes.

Day 4

Salar de Tara

It's a full day tour, where you will discover one of the hidden gems of the region. No entrance to consider. Breakfast and lunch included. The tour will pick you up between 9h and 9h40 at your hostel and bring your back around 4 pm.

You will discover the east of San Pedro de Atacama, starting your trip by the international road that connects Chile and Argentina through the Jama Pass. The first stop will be the bofedal (high Andean wetland) by the Quepiaco River, where it's possible to observe different birds like flamingos, red-gartered coots and ducks. This will also be the place to have a good breakfast while enjoying a unique contrast between vegetation and mountain range.

Upper on the road you will enter the desert and see the Monjes de Pacana, big stone pillars rising up lonely in the middle of nowhere. Then the tour heads to the great Tara Salt Flat and the cathedrals. The altitude is around 4300m and the salt desert, surrounded by volcanos, has a surface of 3 to 25 square meters, depending on the time of the year. It is considered as one of the hidden gem of San Pedro de Atacama. You will have the opportunity to make a small hike bordering the place that mix vegetation, rivers and lagoons. With chance, you could see guanacos or lamas. The last stop is at Aguas Calientes, amazing lagoons of different colors and considered as a national reserve of flamingos. You will head back to San Pedro de Atacama around 17h.

Day 5

Geysers and return

The tour will pick you up at your hostel between 5 and 5h30 am and you will be back in town around 12h30. Note that you have to take 10.000 per person for the entrance. Take very warm clothes because it's very cold in the morning. Bring your swimsuit and a towel.

You will start the journey going up to the Altiplano driving through the hills and mountains of the Andes. After 1 hour and a half, you will get to **El Tatio Geysers**. One of the largest geysers in the world. The place has about 80 steaming geysers at 4,200 meters high. It's better to visit it early morning because the streams are more impressive while the temperature is low, due to the temperature difference between boiling water and the atmosphere, which allows more visible vapor condensation. In the summer it can be as cold as -6C and in the winter -20C. After visiting the place with a guide and receiving all necessary information, you will enjoy a breakfast, surrounded by many steam columns. Afterwards, you will have the opportunity to swim in the Pozón Rústico (thermal swimmingpool) inside the geothermal camp. Don't forget your swimsuit, towel and if necessary, changing clothes.

On the way back to San Pedro de Atacama, you will stop in the Putana River, you can observe the native flora and fauna of the area; then, you will have a stop at **Machuca** town, where they will sell lama anticuchos (little pieces of meat pierced by a small bar), empanadas and other traditional food from the area.

Then in the afternoon, your transfer will pick you up at your hotel 3 hours before your flight to get you to the airport.