



10
DAYS

Mountaineering Expedition

In this trip we offer you a selection of trekkings to discover the Atacama Desert and to acclimatize. We'll start with Láscar, a 5600 m active volcano, then we'll enter the beautiful Bolivian altiplano. We'll visit the White and Green Lakes, thermal springs, mud geysers, Laguna Colorada and villages where traditions and the Andean way of life are preserved. During this trip we'll climb the most important summits of the region, the sacred mountain Licancabur, 5916 m and the Uturuncu, 6008 m.

1ST DAY: Trek Ckari Gorge. Trek Death Valley's Cliffs

2ND DAY: White Geyser (natural hot springs)

3RD DAY: Atacama Salt Flat. Trek Old Talabre / Tumbre

4TH DAY: Ascension Láscar Volcano, 5600 m

5TH AND 6TH DAY: Ascent Licancabur Volcano, 5916 m

7TH DAY: Eduardo Avaroa to Laguna Colorada

8TH DAY: Quetena Village and Wetlands

9TH DAY: Ascension Uturuncu

10TH DAY: Return to San Pedro of Atacama

11 NIGHTS AND 10 DAYS. **INCLUDES ONLY INDICATED MEALS. IF YOU WANT TO ADD ACCOMMODATIONS IN SAN PEDRO AND TRANSFERS FROM CALAMA, SEE OUR WEBSITE.**

INCLUDES BASIC LODGINGS IN BOLIVIA.

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www.atacamacontact.com
contact@atacamacontact.com

ATACAMA
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DAY 01

MORNING



We start our excursion from San Pedro de Atacama, we go to the viewpoint of Ckari where we have a panoramic view of the Atacama basin, from here we start our trek down a dune to then cross the salt mountain range through a narrow gorge and several salt caves. After about 2 hours of hiking we come through the other side and take the vehicle to visit the Moon Valley.

Return to San Pedro de Atacama.
You are free for lunch in town.

Distance: 45 km.
Trek Ckari: 5.3 km.
Trek Cliffs: 7.3 km.
Altitude: 2500 m.

Accommodations:
In hotel, San Pedro of Atacama
Foods: Breakfast at hotel + Snacks.

AFTERNOON



We board the vehicle and head to an abandoned herding trail, we begin our 3-hour trek through the Salt Range, as we ascend we see to a panoramic view of the Catarpe valley. We'll cross a tunnel and emerge on the Mars (or Death) Valley Cliffs. We skirt these cliffs enjoying the Andes Mountain Range on the horizon and descend through huge dunes.

Return to San Pedro de Atacama.



DAY 02



We drive north directly to the geysers, on the way back we'll enjoy vast and varied landscapes. We'll see the wetlands of Putana, overflowing with life and we'll pass by the town of Machuca. Excellent excursion to observe the variety of altiplanic fauna and bird watching.

From the Tatio Geysers we begin our journey through the geothermal field following paths made by the vicuñas, this takes us to a valley rich in underground thermal waters, from there we start a trek to the White Geyser, finding several pools where we can enjoy a thermal bath.

Then we go down for lunch in Putana.

Return to your hotel in San Pedro de Atacama.

Distance: 195 km.

Trek White Geyser: 4.2 km.

Altitude: 4300 m.

Difficulty: Easy / Intermediate

Accommodations:

In hotel, San Pedro (2500 m).

Meals: Breakfast or Lunch + Snacks.

DAY 03



We travel southwards along the Salt Flat, until we reach the village of Toconao where we'll see varied fruit crops and a church that is National Monument. We'll continue to the Chaxa Lake in the Atacama Salt Flat. Here we'll see flamingos and talk about the particular geology of the place. We'll have lunch here.

We then drive up the Andes Range and we ascend until the old town of Talabre abandoned due to the bombardment of pyroclasts or tephra from the Láscar Volcano. From here we begin our trek, observing the remains of this settlement and strange rock formations, until we reach a traditional grazing site.

We camp and spend the night.

Distance: 110 km.

Trek Talabre V. / Tumbre: 5,4 km.

Height: 3560 to 3870 masl.

Difficulty: Intermediate

Accommodations:

In camp, Tumbre (3870 m).

Meals: Breakfast at your hotel + Lunch + Dinner + Snacks.

DAY 04



Ascension of the active volcano Láscar 5600 m. Approx. duration 5h. We drive up to Lejía Lake where we admire the reflection of the mountains in its huge mirror of water. Here we begin our ascent. Láscar has presented around 30 explosive eruptions since the 19th century, making it the most active volcano in northern Chile. The last event occurred between the years 2005 and 2006. Its summit has 6 craters, being the central the one that has presented activity during the last centuries. The current state of the volcano is characterized by the persistent emission of gases, with high levels of sulfur dioxide. During this ascent we can reach the edge of the huge active crater.

Return to San Pedro of Atacama.

Car Distance: 150 km.
Accommodations: In hotel, San Pedro.
Meals: Breakfast + Lunch + Snacks.
Start: 4800 m.
Summit: 5560 m.
Walking distance: 3,3 km.
Height Difference / Rise: 760 m.

DAYS 05 - 06

CHILE, SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA / BOLIVIA, PARQUE EDUARDO AVAROA



From San Pedro of Atacama we go up to the Bolivian border, and settle in a refuge in the Bolivian, Park Eduardo Avaroa. In the afternoon we walk around the White Lake and then have dinner at the refuge.

The next day we wake up and take a 4x4 vehicle to reach the base of the volcano where we find ruins of an old abandoned Inca Tambo. From there we begin our ascent of about 6 hours until the 5916 meters high summit. This is a demanding mountain with incredible views of the White and the Green Bolivian Lakes as well as the Atacama Salt Flat basin.

Return to Eduardo Abaroa refuge.

Car Distance: 40 km.
Accommodations:
1. In refuge of the park E. Avaroa.
2. In hotel, San Pedro (2500 m).
Meals: Breakfast + Lunch (or walking rations) + Supper + Snacks.
Start: 4630 m.
Summit: 5916 m.
Walking Distance: 3.8 km.
Height Difference / Rise: 1286 m.
Duration approx: 6-5 hours.



Maximum Altitude: 5000 meters

Distance: 87 km.

Accommodations: Refuge, Laguna Colorada.

Meals: Breakfast + Lunch + Supper.

HIGHLIGHTS

- > National Park Eduardo Abarca
- > Lakes Blanca and Verde
- > Dali's Desert
- > Polques Salt Flat
- > Polques Hot Springs
- > Sol de Mañana Geysers
- > Laguna Colorada

09.00 hrs. (Duration 8 hrs)

We leave go through customs in San Pedro, about 45 minutes away we cross the Bolivian border at Hito Cajón. We'll change cars here as we'll need Bolivian 4x4. We head towards the Eduardo Abarca National Park. We begin by encircling the White Lake, populated by numerous species of birds, such as coots and flamingos. We continue to the Laguna Verde which, due to its composition, does not harbor life, but if we are lucky in the morning we can see the colors changing when the wind rises turning it turquoise green.

Then we'll travel through Dali's Desert where the mountains truly seem to become clocks of sand when as the sediments descend creating large banks of colors that are then carried by the wind painting the landscape. We continue to Polques where we can enjoy a thermal bath in front of a great salt flat, we'll have lunch here.

We drive through the desert ascending up to 5000 meters (16,404 ft.). Here we'll see the Sol de Mañana geysers (*Morning Sun*), colorful geysers of boiling mud that lie in sedimentary soil, as the bubbles explode they throw away mud particles forming deep pools of different colors. We go down through a great plain where we see a small settlement at one end, we continue to Laguna Colorada that appears with its exotic beauty, we go to a lookout where we can appreciate the true majesty of the lake with its enormous red expanse dotted with boron islands and populated by abundant James flamingos, you can often see on the sides of this lake wild vicuñas and large herds of llamas grazing. We return to the settlement for dinner and sleep.



After breakfast we enter the Altiplano towards the village of Quetena Chico, a place that has little contact with tourism and the modern world. Here the Andean way of life is still intact. In the surroundings there are bofedales or wetlands where the llamas and alpacas graze.

We settle in a hostel and have a walk through the bofedales. We return early for dinner and spend the night in preparation for Uturuncu.

Car Distance: 57 km.
Max. Altitude: 4160 m.
Accommodations: In Hostel, Quetena.
Meals: Breakfast + Lunch + Supper.

HIGHLIGHTS
> Quetena Chico Village
> Walk through Bofedales of Quetena.



We leave early in the morning following ancient sulfur mining roads to approach the Uturuncu mountain. We arrive at its base and begin ascension. It's a 4 hour average ascension total 6 hours. From the top we can enjoy a new sight of the Bolivian Altiplano.

We return to the vehicle and go down for lunch in the wetlands. We continue our way following green canyons and we go to Polques where we spend the night. Here we can enjoy thermal baths.

Car Distance: 92 km.
Accommodations: Refuge, Polques.
Meals: Breakfast + Lunch (or walking rations) + Supper + Snacks.

Start: 5600 m.
Summit: 6008 m.
Walking Distance: 1 km.
Height Difference / Rise: 408 m.
Duration approx: 4-6 hours.



We have breakfast in Polques and we drive by Dalí's Desert towards the border crossing Hito Cajón. We do the customs procedures and we return to your hotel in San Pedro de Atacama. Usually you arrive around noon.

Car Distance: 88 km.
Max. Altitude: 4600 m.
Accommodations: (2500 m).
In hotel, San Pedro de Atacama, Chile.
Meals: Breakfast.

YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING

Do not underestimate the treks based on distances and numbers. Do not compare activities that you normally do where you live with the activities we are proposing, the climate, the altitude and the qualities of the terrain often make it much more difficult to progress on one of these routes. It often happens that people accustomed to walking and outdoor activities feel that distances and efforts are greater than they seem. Our itineraries are built to ease you into it.

YOU'LL NEED

Clothing must meet the following requirements: It must be adequate, comfortable, give shelter and insulation, be resistant, be consistent, maintain a restricted volume and weight, if possible waterproof.

It is important to bring **YOUR OWN SLEEPING BAG** -15/-20C° resistance.

You'll also need:

- Sunscreen, at least 50FPS.
- Sunglasses (Ideally Spectron 3 or more).
- Mountain boots (or trekking), they should cover and protect your ankles, with rigid sole.
- For legs and torso, dress using a layer system. First layer consists of water repellent fabric, the second layer must be a fleece or a material that keeps warm air next to the body, and the third layer must protect and isolate you from elements such as wind, rain and snow.
- Gloves (Double layer recommended for mountain).
- Cap to protect against solar radiation and wind in the head and ears (It depends on the activity, it can be a wool cap, a jockey, a Baff or in mountain even a Balaclava)
- Walking sticks are recommended, but not mandatory.
- Backpack that meets the requirements of the activities to be carried out.
- Frontal flashlight for camping (an external charger is a good idea).
- Slippers or something comfortable to get into when at the camp (also thick sleeping socks).

WE HAVE

- > Tents.
- > Sleeping mats.
- > Food.
- > Spot / GPS.
- > First Aid Kit.

