



7
DAYS

ATACAMA DESERT & UYUNI EXPEDITION

Chilean Desert and Bolivian Altiplano

Atacama Salt Flat
Geology of the Atacama
Moon & Rainbow Valleys
Tatio Geysers
Dali's desert
Polques Hot Springs
Geysers Sol de Mañana
Laguna Colorada
Rocks Valley
Chiguana Salt Flat
Uyuni Salt Flat
Incahuasi Island
Tunupa Volcano

Get ready for a new experience. First we will visit the most beautiful sights that Chilean Atacama Desert, has to offer, staying 3 days in the traditional village of San Pedro. Then, we will travel through Bolivia in a 4x4, driving most of the time in dust roads. We'll sleep in shelters lost within inhospitable places and most of the time we'll be isolated from the world. This is the only way to access the wonders that surrounds the Altiplano, we'll see lakes of different colors, mud geysers and dramatic rock formations. Being in these places is like going through a living picture, where we see sediments of colors come down from the volcanoes to paint the earth according to the whims of the wind.

ATACAMA
Contact

www.atacamacontact.com
contact@atacamacontact.com

**INCLUDES BASIC LODGINGS
IN BOLIVIA**

ATACAMA
Contact



DAY 01

CHILE, ANTOFAGASTA, SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Toconao village
- > San Lucas church and gardens
- > Atacama Salt Flat
- > Chaxa Lake
- > Cejar Lake (bathing)

Altitude 2500 meters.
Distance: 135 km.

Accommodations:
San Pedro of Atacama.
Meals: Breakfast at your hotel
+ Lunch.

09.00 hrs. (Duration 5-6 hrs)

We head south along the salt flat. On the way, we see the base camp of the astronomical observatory A.L.M.A. And then we cross the Tambillo reserve, a tamarugo tree forest planted in the 60's. We start our excursion in the village of Toconao, there we will see the San Lucas church, a national monument. Then we'll discover a labyrinth of gardens in the middle of the desert.

We continue our journey towards the heart of the Atacama Salt Flat to see the flamingos that inhabit the Chaxa lake and observe the strange formations of the brine soil. Here we will enjoy a nice lunch.

Finally, we go to Cejar lake, a type of geological formation called cenote, on its coasts are crystallized salts and its crystalline waters are so salty that when you bathe in them it's impossible to sink. There are changers and showers here.

Return to your hotel in San Pedro of Atacama



DAY 02

CHILE, ANTOFAGASTA, SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Moon Valley
- > Great Dune
- > Amphitheater
- > Three Marys

- > Hierbas Buenas Petroglyphs
- > Rainbow Valley

Maximum Altitude 3200 meters.
Distance: 187 km.

Accommodations:
San Pedro of Atacama.
Meals: Breakfast at your hotel +
Lunch.

Moon Valley

09.15 hrs. (Duration 8 hrs)

We drive up the Salt Mountain Range. Its landscapes make us travel to other geological times; The bare earth shows the planet's enormous forces in a dramatic gesture of the elements. The folding of the soil produces a huge cut in the sedimentary fill of the Atacama basin, where the crystals forged in their depths appear. In the Moon Valley, the evaporite (salt) that covers it, gives it a lunar appearance. We will stop at the most attractive points according to your interests and capabilities.

Trek option: 4 hrs. Trek that begins at the Kari lookout, we enter this incredible panoramic view of the salt mountain range and we cross tunnels and deep canyons to reach the Moon Valley. We continue by car and visit its points of interest. 5 km.

Petroglyphs & Rainbow Valley

We keep climbing the Domeyko range where we visit the archaeological site of Hierbas Buenas. Here the ancient Atacameños speak to us through the petroglyphs carved in the walls of ignimbrite rocks, between the shelters of the "caravaneros".

We end with a visit to the Rainbow Valley, with its impressive plutonic formations that surface thanks to the movement of the tectonic plates allowing to flourish strokes of intense red, white and green colors and their combinations under a brilliant blue sky completing the rainbow. We have lunch outdoors with this landscape.



HIGHLIGHTS

- > Tatio Geysers
- > Putana wetlands
- > Machuca salt flat (Flamingos)

Altitude: 4320 m.
Distance: 200 km.

Accommodations:
San Pedro of Atacama.
Meals: Breakfast or Lunch in trek option.

05.30 hrs. (Duration 5-7 hrs; schedule varies with season)

We travel north directly to the Tatio Mallku geysers, this is the third largest geothermal field in the world. On the way back we enjoy vast and varied landscapes, we also witness the ancient activities of the inhabitants of the plateau; The sulfur mining, the gathering of the Llareta and the raising of llamas. We pass the Putana wetlands, brimming with life and a variety of birds. Then we see from the heights the town of Machuca and in its surroundings, llamas and a small salt flat with flamingos. In the descent we have a panoramic view of the Atacama Salt Flat. Excellent excursion to observe the variety of the highland fauna. Breakfast or lunch included depending on the time of departure.

Trekk option: 2-3 hrs. We start in the main part of the geothermal field and follow the river formed by the great White Geyser to its source. This low difficulty walk allows us to get close to nature and bathe in hot springs. Lunch in the White Geyser. 4.2 km.



DAY 04

SAN PEDRO OF ATACAMA - BOLIVIA

HIGHLIGHTS

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

Maximum Altitude: 5000 meters

Distance: 97 km.

Accommodations:

Refuge, Laguna Colorada .

Meals: Breakfast + Lunch + Supper.

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.



DAY 05

BOLIVIA

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Stone Tree
- > Siloli Desert
- > Lakes, la Honda, Chiarkota, Hedionda and Cañapa
- > Chiguana Salt Flat
- > Uyuni Salt Flat
- > Chuvica Village
- > Night in a Salt Hotel

Maximum Altitude:. 4550 meters.
Distance: 229 km.
Accommodations:
Salt Hotel, Chuvica.
Meals: Breakfast + Lunch + Supper.

09.00 hrs.

We'll have an early breakfast and get into the 4x4 heading towards the Stone Tree. Here we'll see blocks of ignimbrite stone exposed by the low winds that pick up small pebbles eroding the already narrow bases of these formations leaving the rocks delicately balanced.

We continue our expedition going through Siloli desert, beautiful mountains colored by the sulfur that covers great extensions. We continue to discover three beautiful lakes: La Honda, Chiarkota, Hedionda and Cañapa. Here we'll have an outdoors lunch near the flamingos.

We continue to travel along huge valleys of volcanic rock that still seem to flow from the volcanoes. From our high viewpoint we spot the Chiguana salt flat that begins to dominate the landscape as we go down. We then see hills painted with colorful quinoa plants, we skirt these hills until we reach the edge of the Uyuni salt flat where we find the village of Chuvica. Here we'll spend the night and have dinner in a hotel completely built with salt.



DAY 06

BOLIVIA, CHUVICA / UYUNI SALT FLAT.

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Chuvica village
- > Uyuni Salt Flat
- > Incahuasi Island
- > Coqueza Village
- > Walk trough the extinct crater of the Tunupa volcano.
- > Cave of the Mummies

Maximum Altitude: 4800 meters

Distance: 203 km.

Accommodations: Hostel, Uyuni.

Meals: Breakfast + Lunch + Supper.

09.00 hrs.

From the town of Chuvica we enter the dazzling whiteness of the Uyuni Salt Flat, we cross its vast extension to arrive at the island Incahuasi populated by numerous cardón cacti. We walk up a path to a beautiful panoramic viewpoint of the surrounding salt flat.

We continue exploring the salt flat towards the village of Coqueza where we'll have lunch. From here we start a walk up to a lookout at the edge of the extinct crater of the Tunupa volcano where we have an incredible view of the Uyuni Salt Flat. We go down to visit caves inhabited by ancient mummies and then we head to the village of Uyuni where we have supper and spend the night in a hostel.



DAY 07

BOLIVIA, UYUNI / CHILE, SAN PEDRO OF ATACAMA

HIGHLIGHTS

- > San Cristóbal Village
- > Rocks Valley
- > Villa Mar
- > Laguna Capina
- > Return to San Pedro

Max. Altitude: 4800 m.
Distance: 393 km.

Accommodations:
San Pedro of Atacama.
Meals: Breakfast + Lunch.

09.00 hrs.

We leave early from Uyuni and start our long return to San Pedro of Atacama. To return we take a different road. In the first section we pass through the mining town of San Cristóbal and continue driving through wide plains planted with quinoa. After several hours of road, we arrive at the Valley of Rocks, during this part of the trip we drive next to numerous ravines of ignimbrite stone and sectors where high rock pillars arise. At the end of this valley we find the village of Villa Mar.

We continue our drive passing next to the Lake Capina, where boron is exploded, until we reach the Laguna Colorada where we find the path that we previously used on our expedition, we follow this path to Hito Cajón. We cross the Bolivian border and go down to San Pedro de Atacama.

We go through Chilean customs and leave you at your hotel.



6TH DAY. Climbing up the Tunupa Volcano.



5TH DAY. Tree Rock.



7TH DAY. Rock Valley.



6TH DAY. Tunupa Volcano.



6TH DAY. Tunupa Mummies.



5TH DAY. Salt Hotel, Chuvica.