



5
DAYS

SPECTER of ATACAMA

Experience the array of colors the desert offers

*Tulor Village
Pukará of Quitor
Visit to an organic farm
Cacti forest trek
Moon Valley
Hierbas Buenas Petroglyphs
Rainbow Valley
Atacama Salt Flats
Altiplanic Lakes M&M
Astronomy
Tara Salt Flat
Monks of the Pacana
Tatio Geysers*

This trip includes the best known sites of Atacama, as well as impressive landscapes that many miss out. The first day we will learn the historical roots of the Likan-Antai, we'll then have lunch in an organic farm and we will finish with a walk amongst cacti. The next day we'll admire the geology of the Salt Range, the impressive plutonic formations in the Rainbow Valley and learn about the Andean culture through petroglyphs. On the third day, we'll travel to the Salt Flat, followed by the Altiplanic Lakes and their corresponding volcanoes Miscanti and Miñiques, marveling at the changing landscapes of vertical ecology. That night, science and legend come together in our astronomy visit. On the fourth day we'll visit the Tara Salt Flat and the Monks of Pacana. Finally, we'll not only enjoy breakfast at the Tatio Geysers, but the greatest variety of fauna and flora that we will see in our trip.

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5 NIGHTS AND 4 DAYS. INCLUDES ONLY INDICATED MEALS. **IF YOU WANT TO ADD ACCOMMODATION IN SAN PEDRO AND TRANSFERS FROM CALAMA, VISIT OUR WEBSITE.**



DAY 01

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Tulo Village
- > Pukará of Quitor

- > Lunch at organic farm

- > Cacti Canyon / Forest
- > Fauna and flora in the Vilama

Max. Altitude. 3600 meters.
Distance: 187 km.

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

Ancestral Archeology

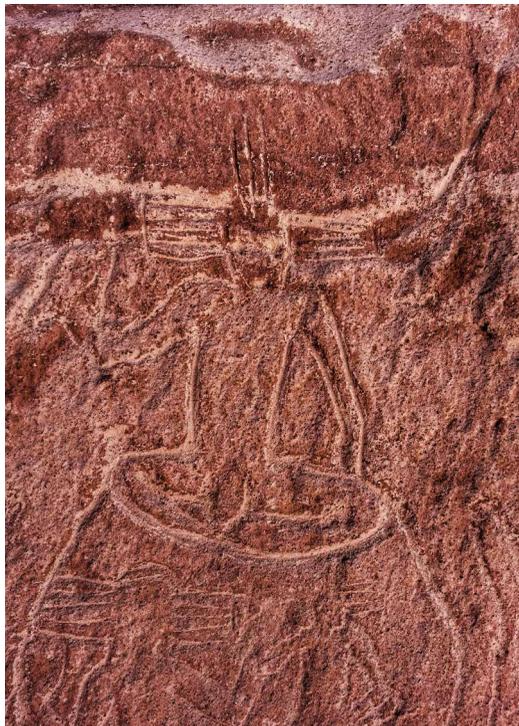
10.00 hrs. (Duration 7-8 hrs)

We go to the Coyo "ayllu" to discover the oldest testimony of a sedentary settlement in the Atacama, the village of Tulo (800 BC). Formed by a set of circular constructions of mud, this village grew organically until reaching almost 8000 mts². Then we visit the Pukará of Quitor, an old fortress where the Lican-Antay fought the Spaniards.

Traditional lunch in an organic farm in the Oasis of Coyo.

Trek in a Cardón Cacti Forest (2 km.)

We enter the Vilama canyon, we'll cross ruins of the times of transhumance and arrive at a forest of cardón cacti. This species, now protected, grows only 3 to 6 mm per year and its wood has been traditionally used for construction and handicrafts. We'll follow the river towards the town of Guatín observing birds, flora and the different volcanic eruptions that formed the geology of this canyon.



DAY 02

HIGHLIGHTS

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

- > Hierbas Buenas Petroglyphs
- > Rainbow Valley

Max. Altitude 3200 meters.
Distance: 187 km.

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

Moon Valley

09.15 hrs. (Duration 6-8 hrs)

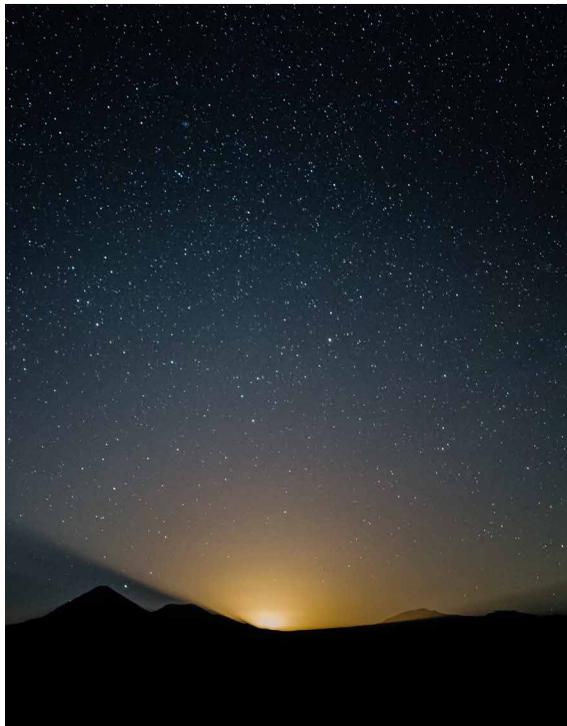
We drive up the Salt Mountain Range. Its landscapes make us travel to other geological times; The bare earth shows the planet's enormous forces in a dramatic gesture of the elements. The folding of the soil produces a huge cut in the sedimentary fill of the Atacama basin, where the crystals forged in 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. Hike 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.



DAY 03

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Toconao village
- > San Lucas church and gardens
- > Atacama Salt Flat
- > Chaxa Lake
- > Tropic of Capricorn
- > Socaire Village
- > Altiplanic Lakes

- > Astronomy

Max. Altitude 4200 meters.
Distance: 254 km.

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

Altiplanic Lakes & Atacama Salt Flat

08.00 hrs. (Duration 7-8 hrs)

This journey through vertical ecology, allows us to see how natural resources are distributed in relation to altitude and its geo-ecological floors.

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 Tambermo 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 will 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.

We continue the trip crossing the Tropic of Capricorn and we pass through the town of Socaire that stands out for its millenarian cultivation terraces. Finally our ascent through the high plateau culminates with the discovery of the jewels of the mountain range: two beautiful lakes, Miscanti and Miñiques.

Astronomy (Subject to weather and moon phases)

21.00 hrs. (Duration 2 hrs)

We'll visit an observatory to enjoy the Atacama night sky, one of the most impressive in the world, even through the naked eye. The experience consists of 3 parts, a theoretical presentation, direct observation of the Milky Way and we end with deep space observation through a telescope.



DAY 04

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Quepiaco Wetlands
- > Monks of the Pacana
- > Tara Salt Flat
- > Lunch at Tara

Altitude 4490 meters.
Distance: 270 km.

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

09.00 hrs. (Duration 8 hrs)

We head east. in this ascent we'll enjoy a privileged view of the volcanoes Licancabur and Juriques, we often see Llamas in this sector of the pre-altiplano. We continue climbing the Andes and see in the distance the Green and White Bolivian lakes. This passage leads us over more than 4850 meters of altitude between volcanoes and rivers of sediments, in the distance we see the astronomical project A.L.M.A. just before arriving at the Quepiaco lake. Here you can see the animals and birds that inhabit these extreme places.

We continue and arrive at the geological formations known as "Monks of the Pacana", enormous rock pillars, witnesses of the intense volcanic activity of the region. Then we go to a viewpoint that is projected over the salt flat and we walk next to the Cathedrals of Tara to arrive at the salt where the Llamas graze and the flamingos live.

We have lunch with this landscape.



DAY 05

HIGHLIGHTS

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

Altitude: 4320 meters .

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.

Trek 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.