

ATACAMA HIGH DESERT ADVENTURE



ATACAMA COMMUNITY LEAD ADVENTURE

Chile is truly one of the most amazing places on earth. A long country with soaring mountains, gigantic glaciers, a high altitude desert, and some of the most ancient cultures on Earth. With this rich culture and beautiful history that goes back centuries, Chile will draw you in with its rugged beauty, smiles, and the warmth of its people.

On this adventure filled experience you will explore the Atacama Desert led by the people who have called this place home for thousands of years. Explore The Moon Valley, get lost under stars like you have never seen, get close to the Tatio Geyser, and enjoy some delicious local food along the way. As with all of our programs, this excursion is not just about the beautiful sites, but about learning from and connecting with local people. Your trip to the Atacama will leave you breathless in all the best ways.

ATACAMA ADVENTURE AND CULTURAL IMMERSION

Your adventure begins with a short flight from Santiago to the town of Calma. From there you will have a 1.5 hr. bus ride to San Pedro de Atacama. Your adventure will start as soon as you hit the ground. Led by your local guides you will explore the magnificent Moon Valley and have an evening filled observing the constellations in the Southern Hemisphere. For the next few days you will hike to geysers, explore Herbas Valley, walk alongside a caravan of Llamas, and get to know the local people and their history.

OPTIONAL ADD ON

For this trip there is an optional add-on for a visit to coastal Atacama in the town of Chañaral de Aceituno. This is where the desert meets the ocean and is little visited by tourists. This amazing place is well worth the trip and will be the perfect addition to your Atacama adventure. Let us know if you would like more information.



DAY 0

ARRIVE SANTIAGO – EXPLORE CITY

Arrive in Santiago. On your flight in you will have a chance to see the beautiful Andes Mountains that surround this amazing city, it is truly breathtaking. Santiago is a friendly city with many sites to visit, a subway that is easy to use and delicious food. Use today to explore the city and get anything you might need for your adventure in the Atacama Desert. Recommendations on sites or activities upon request.

DAY 1

SAN PEDRO – MOON VALLEY – ASTRONOMY

Today you will take a short 2.5 hr. flight from Santiago to Calma. From here you will catch a 1.5 hr. bus to San Pedro de Atacama. When you arrive you will get checked into your accommodations and have a taste of your first Atacamian traditional lunch. This lunch usually consists of quinoa with llama or lamb. After lunch, you will meet your local guide who will take you to Moon Valley. Here you will walk through the impressive caves, ravines, dunes, and geological formations. In the evening after dinner you will enjoy an extraordinary trip through the Southern Hemisphere sky, learning about the constellations, galaxies, and ancestral knowledge of the Lickan Antay people using modern telescopes.

DAY 2

HERBAS VALLEY – RIO GRANDE VALLEY

After breakfast you will meet your local guide Pamela Condori. Pamela will take you to visit the old petroglyphs and the magnificent Rainbow Valley. On our way back we will visit a small village in the Rio Grande, walking the narrow alleys, visiting its houses and learning of its history. We will be treated to a wonderful lunch prepared by Pamela. Evening is free for you to explore on your own.

DAY 3

LICKAN ANTAY – ANCESTRAL CARAVAN

Today you will take a step back in time learning about the culture and history of the Lickan Antay people. The Lickan Antay have inhabited the desert for thousands of years, learning how to survive in its harsh conditions. Your local guide Wildo will teach you the story about his family and how they learned to survive economically. You will have the chance to learn how to grow crops, farm animals, and other Lickan Antay skills that have helped them survive. Lunch will be a typical Lickan Antay meal, after which you will meet Sandra who will teach you the ways of the llama caravan, learning how they

use them for travel and the scared relationship they share together. Evening free to explore on your own.

DAY 4

TATIO GEYSERS – ATACAMIAN TASTINGS

After breakfast you will head out to the Tatio geothermal field. This field is 4000 meters above sea level and home to amazing natural features. You will walk through the field observing its unique geology. On our way back you will walk through the Puntana and Machuca wetlands observing all the different species that live there. After which you will head back to San Pedro, making a stop at Coyo for a typical Atacamian lunch. In the evening, you will transfer back to Santiago via overnight bus.

DAY 6

SANTIAGO

You will arrive back in Santiago around 8:00 am. From here if you wish to extend your stay you have many options of things you can do. We recommend combining this experience with a tip to one of Chile's wild natural places. We offer amazing excursions to Patagonia and the far southern tip of South America. If you would like some suggestions of activities please feel free to reach out to us. If not, you will be transferred back to airport for your flight home.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All mention food per program
- Activities guided in English and Spanish
- Local transport at destination
- Accommodations at Hostal Mistkany

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Expenses for days 1 and 5 including accommodations in Santiago
- Drinks other than water and tea
- Travel Insurance
- International flights



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