



## North Chile

### Atacama Desert Nature Tour

The Atacama Desert, in the north of Chile, is the driest place on earth. The desert is so dramatic that, at first sight, it appears never to have sustained any life. However, pink flamingoes together with Llamas, Vicunas y Guanacos and many other species of fauna and flora can be found living in perfect harmony in the many oases and lakes located in the area. The volcanoes that crown the Atacama desert are among the tallest on earth and their summits used to be sacred sanctuaries for the ancient Incas.

### TUE: Calama- San Pedro

Reception at Calama's airport (11-12AM) and private transfer to San Pedro de Atacama (98km) crossing the Cordillera de la Sal with amazing rock formations. Lunch and briefing in San Pedro de Atacama. The evening schedules an interesting Ethnic tour (\*) which introduces the social & economic system developed for the ancient inhabitants to work and live in harmony on this remote oasis. It is possible to learn a bit of the land working techniques, which manage to grow food with little water, and on extreme weather conditions. The tour ends at the archeological remains of Tulo, sacred village with singular rounded constructions which origin and decay remains a mystery. Overnight in Hotel (L, D)



### WED: San Pedro- Toconao- Salar de Atacama

Exploration starts by visiting the small village of Toconao, 35km from San Pedro, well known for its volcanic rock handcrafts. Walk in the nearby valley of Jeria and observe the typical cultivation on terraces. On the way back enter the immense and sparkling white Atacama Saltflat until reaching the beautiful Chaxa lagoon where flamingoes and other Andean birds nest. Be back at San Pedro on time for lunch (\*); Afterwards, visit the Museo Arqueologico to gain an insight into the ancient cultures that inhabited the area. Next, visit and walk around the remarkable remains of the fortress of Quitor 3 km from San Pedro. Its strategic location overlooking the neighboring fertile valleys gave peace and splendor to its original inhabitants, the Atacamenos (S.XII) until first the Incas and later the Spanish conquerors (S.XVI) invaded the city. As the sun gets down enter the silent Moon Valley and explore its extraordinary rock formations. Overnight in Hotel (B, L, D)

### THU: Geysers Del Tatio (4.500m, 270km trip)

Leave the Hotel at 04:30 hrs on time to observe the geysers in action at El Tatio. The boiling steam rises up to 40mt over the surface and some 900m from underground. Breakfast in the open and walk around the geothermal field. Drive back through dirt Andean roads with magnificent view over Tocopurri and Sairecahur volcanoes. The evening is free to walk around the town and visit the picturesque church, square and handcraft market. (B-, L, D)

### FRI: San Pedro- Pakana's Sentinels – Calama (290 km rt)

Drive back to Calama on time to start (9AM) a guided visit to the Chuquicamata Copper Mine (World's biggest open pit mine and world's biggest man-made hole) introducing the main stages on extracting and producing copper. Lunch in Calama. After lunch, drive (33km) to Chiu Chiu the starting point of all dwellings in Atacama (1.000 BC). Today the town

boasts one of the oldest and best preserved Hispanic churches (1.670) of Chile. Continue to the Lasana fortress, settled overlooking river Loa and observe ancient drawings on rocks. Return to Calama on time to catch the evening flight to Santiago (18-19 PM) (B,L)

### What's included

- Transfer Calama arpt/San Pedro/Calama arpt;
- Excursions specified on the itineraries and according to chart below;
- Meals as indicated: B=bkfst; L=lunch; L- =Box-lunch; D=dinner. All meals are served at the hotel's dining room;

### Group departures

- Overnights in Hotel Terrantai, Htl Kimal or similar.
- English speaking guide;
- Mineral water and soft drinks on excursions.

### Excursion Chart

If you want to compose the itinerary "a la carte" herein is the week schedule of excursions:

Excursions	Frequency	Schedules
Atacama, Archeologic and ethnic tour	Every day	15:30 18.00
Atacama Salt Flat	Mon Wed Fri Sat	09:00 13:30
Moon Valley (soft trekking)	Mon Wed Fri Sat	16:00 20:00
Tatio Geysers (soft trekking)	Tue Thu Fri - Sun	05:00 13:00
Chuquicamata Chiu Chiu Lasana	Monday	08:00 13:00
Green Lagoon, Bolivia	Tuesday	08:00 13:00
Altiplano villages, Caspana	Wednesday	09:00 16:00
Sejar Lagoon	Thursday	09:00 13:00
Pakana's sentinels	Friday	09:00 15:00
Piscanti and Meniques Lagoon	Saturday	09:00 15:00
Salt Mountain Trek	Sunday	09:00 13:00

**Important:** Before you travel please check your **Tour Voucher** and **Arrival Information** for the latest joining instructions. This will be sent to you upon receipt of final payment. **All itineraries are subject to change without prior notice.**