



Sacred Earth Travel

Sustainable Nature and Adventure
Travel Northern Highlights

ITINERARY: Highlights of the Altiplano (Northern Parks)

This 7-day itinerary sets out to explore beyond the Atacama hub around San Pedro. Discover the beautiful and diverse National Parks of the region, both inland and along the coast. Despite the seemingly desolate landscape, there is a lot to discover.

After spending a couple of days in San Pedro de Atacama to explore its natural highlights, the journey takes you to the historic port town of Antofagasta. Heading south, discover the fascinating National Park of Pan de Azucar, one of the few protected coastal areas.

Finally, head to Copiapó, once Chile's northernmost outpost. Visit nearby Nevado Tres Cruces National Park – at an altitude between 3800 – 4200 m, this is a rarefied adventure.



DAY 1: CALAMA AIRPORT – SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA (101 KM / 63 MI)

Upon arrival at Calama Airport, pick up your rental car. Your Atacama adventure can begin. Start driving towards the oasis town of San Pedro de Atacama.

The rest of the day is at your leisure. Take your time to explore your surroundings. We recommend a visit to the Moon Valley, with its weird and eery stone and sand formations that have been carved out by the forces of erosion. This place is known for its incredible range of colours and texture reminiscent

of the moon.

Overnight in San Pedro de Atacama.



DAY 2: SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA

Today you have the whole day to discover the natural wonders of the Atacama Desert. Only a few kilometres from San Pedro lies the Los Flamencos National Reserve.

Despite the hostile environment, the park is teeming with a remarkable range of wildlife. Its dark blue lagoons are home to flocks of flamingos and many other birds. It is an ornithologist's paradise. Equally remarkable is the Atacama Salt Flat, the largest salt flat in Chile. It is framed by towering volcanoes, and salt crusts dominate the landscape. Overnight in San Pedro de Atacama. (B)

DAY 3: SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA – ANTOFAGASTA (312 KM / 194 MI)

After breakfast, head out towards the coast, leaving San Pedro de Atacama behind. Your destination for the day is the coastal city of Antofagasta.

Along the way, you will pass Estación Baquedano. This small village was once a prosperous railway station and staging post.

Continue to Antofagasta. You should still have time to explore the city and some of its famous sights such as the natural monument “La Portada”. The

impressive 43 m / 140

ft high, an arch-

shaped rock

formation, was once

connected to the

coast but now juts

out from the ocean.

Overnight in

Antofagasta. (B)



DAY 4:

ANTOFAGASTA -

CHAÑARAL (373 KM /

232 MI)

Start early today,

heading south to reach the coastal city of Chañaral. Known for its quaint streets

and lacking any high-rise buildings, it is a vestige from another era. On your

way, you can visit Pan de Azúcar National Park. This fascinating coastal wildlife

reserve protects a unique habitat with many endemic species found nowhere

else. Explore on foot by taking an easy hike to an impressive lookout point.

Overnight in Chañaral. (B)

DAY 5: CHAÑARAL - COPIAPÓ (166 KM / 103 MI)

In the morning, take the time to visit the park's coastline and the Pan de Azúcar

Island, which can be reached by boat. If you are lucky, you might spot some of

the Humboldt Penguins and many other birds such as seagulls, terns, pelicans,

cormorants, plovers, and oystercatchers.

In the afternoon, continue your journey south, to the city of Copiapó. Overnight

in Copiapó. (B)



DAY 6: COPIAPÓ – NEVADO TRES CRUCES NATIONAL PARK (196 KM / 122 MI)

Today you will have the fantastic opportunity to explore the Nevado Tres Cruces National Park, a high altitude park just a few hours from the city Copiapó. The park is set at an altitude between 3800 to 4200 m. At this elevation oxygen is thin, and trekking is hard, so take it easy. Take a gentle walk to one of the various lookout points from where you can admire the Santa Rosa Lagoon or the Maricunga Salt Flat. Overnight in Copiapó. (B)

DAY 7: COPIAPÓ

You have reached the end of your Atacama adventure. Today it is time to return your rental car at the Copiapó Airport and board your onward flight. (B)

Notes

Based on double occupancy. Single supplement applies.

Hotels we use in this program:

Hotel Casa de Don Tomas (Standard Room)
NH Antofagasta (Standard City View Room)
Aqua Luna Hotel (Standard Room),
Atacama Suites (Superior Room)

Included:

- 6 nights including breakfast
- 7 days car rental including unlimited free mileage, local tax (IVA), and CDW coverage with deductible (for details see rental contract)
- drop-off fee Calama - Copiapo
- Roadmap and descriptions.

Not included:

Chile car rental companies charge an additional airport service fee when vehicle will be picked up from airport. This service charge is not included in the published rates. This extra fee has to be paid upon returning the car.