



# Sacred Earth Travel

Sustainable Nature and Adventure Travel

## ITINERARY

This short adventure in the northern highlands of Chile gives you just a taste of this enigmatic landscape. The desert oasis village of San Pedro de Atacama, which has the best tourist facilities in the region, provides the base for this itinerary. Having your own vehicle gives you flexibility and freedom to roam and explore this magnificent landscape. This itinerary is flexible and can be adapted or extended according to your wishes.



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

Upon arrival, pick up your rental vehicle at the airport or at the car rental office in Calama. Your Atacama adventure can begin! Start your journey through the spectacular northern desert highlands of Chile and head for San Pedro de Atacama. Once the centre of a Mesolithic culture, it is now the hub of intrepid desert

explorers. Impressive rock fortresses perched on steep mountains encircle the green valley, making it a truly unique and stunning place to visit. It contrasts with the eerily silent desert landscape of vast plains where salt lakes, encrusted with octagonal-shaped crystals, reflect the towering volcanoes. Overnight in San Pedro de Atacama.

## DAY 2: SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA

You have a full day to explore your surroundings at your leisure, and there are many fascinating sights to see. Only about an hour from San Pedro lies the Los Flamencos National Reserve. Despite the hostile conditions, the Altiplano is home to many species of wildlife. Its dark blue lagoons are home to flocks of flamingos and numerous other bird species – it is an ornithologist’s paradise.

The Atacama Salt Flat is also a not-to-be-missed highlight of the region. Surrounded by large volcanoes, it is the largest salt flat in Chile, and salt crusts dominate this landscape. Another out-of-this-world natural highlight is the intriguing Moon Valley with its weird stone and sand formations. Although they look otherworldly, the weird shapes are actually the result of centuries of erosion. At sunset, the colours and textures become extraordinarily vivid. Overnight in San Pedro de Atacama. (B)





**DAY 3: SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA – EL TATIO – PURITAMA (143 KM / 89 MI)**

Before the break of dawn, depart from San Pedro and head north to the famous El Tatio Geysers; a geothermal field flanked by soaring peaks. El Tatio is situated at 4,300 meters above sea level on the Altiplano. It is the highest geothermal field in the world and boasts spectacular scenery. At dawn, you will be able to observe powerful spurts of steam that shoot out from various geyser blowholes and steaming ponds. On your way back to San

Pedro, continue on to the Puritama hot springs, where you can enjoy some rest and relaxation as you soak in the natural thermals pools. Overnight in San Pedro de Atacama. (B)

**AN PEDRO DE ATACAMA – CALAMA (101 KM / 63 MI)**

After breakfast, depart for Calama and drop off your rental vehicle before you board your flight for the next leg of your journey. (B)

**NOTES:**

Self-drive itineraries are highly flexible and can be adjusted to your preferences. The rates below are sample rates for this itinerary with the specific car types and hotels mentioned in the table. However, Hotels are subject to availability as well as your choice. The final rate of this itinerary will reflect the specific options you have chosen in the course of developing your itinerary.

Rate per person, based on double occupancy. For single or triple rates, different hotels or extra nights, please inquire.

**Hotels we use in this program:**

Standard: Hotel Casa de Don Tomas (Standard Room)

Superior: Hotel Altiplanico San Pedro de Atacama (Standard Room)

**Included:**

- 3 nights including breakfast
- 4 days car rental including unlimited free mileage, local tax (IVA), full CDW coverage with deductible (for details see rental contract)
- 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.