



Sacred Earth Travel

Sustainable Nature and Adventure Travel

The arid highlands of Chile are almost otherworldly in their stark, barren, yet colorful beauty. Snowcapped volcanoes tower majestically over a forbidding emptiness. A sense of timelessness sets in. And yet, there is something fascinating about such a place and the people who have lived there, managing to survive on the merest resources. This journey will take you from the Altiplano in the very north of Chile to the port town of Iquique and on to San Pedro de Atacama, which has become quite a hub for those seeking a special kind of experience in this mysterious and enigmatic place.

Day 1: ARICA – CODPA VALLEY (135 KM / 84 MI)

Pick up your car at the airport or the downtown rental office in Arica, and your adventure begins! Start driving towards the Codpa Valley. On your way out of town, visit El Morro, a steep hill located south of Arica. Enjoy beautiful views of the Azapa Valley, a fertile basin where olives, tomatoes, and tropical fruits are grown. Azapa Valley also is famous for its archaeological sites that date to the 10th-century. The archaeological “Museo San Miguel de Azapa”, a small University museum, tells the story of the local discovery and the remains of the Chinchorro culture. Afterwards, continue your journey south towards Iquique and spend the night in the pristine highland valley of Codpa. Overnight at the Codpa Valley Lodge.

Day 2: CODPA VALLEY – PUTRE (160 KM/ 100 MI)

Today’s scenic route will take you to the petroglyphs of Ofragía, passing the villages of Timar, Tignamar, Saxamar, Belen, and Chaquipiña. Along the way, you will also be able to visit the Tambo de Zapahuira. This resting spot and

buildings are located 107 km from Arica and have been declared National Monument. During the Inca Empire, this place served as a storage for textiles, food, and arms. When you get to the highland village of Putre (3,600 m / 11,811 ft above sea level), the surrounding sights and nearby snowcapped volcanic peaks will take your breath away. Overnight in Putre. (B)



Day 3: PUTRE – LAUCA NATIONAL PARK – ARICA (200 KM / 125 MI)

During today's drive, you will discover the stunning beauty of the Lauca National Park with its impressive variety of exotic flora and altiplano wildlife: vicuñas, alpacas, Andean flamingos and many other species. Lauca National Park is also the home of Chungará Lake, the highest lake in the world. Afterwards, explore the village of Parinacota and its beautiful church before

making your way back to Arica. As you slowly descend back to sea level, Lluta Valley is spread out in front of you. Overnight in Arica. (B)

Day 4: ARICA – IQUIQUE (300 KM / 186 MI)

After breakfast, head south towards the dry Pampa, a desert expanse situated at 1.000 –1,200m / 3,280 – 3,940 ft above sea level. Deep canyons carve out this vast plain. Continue on to the port city Iquique, which had its heyday in the 19th-century. At that time, the Atacama Desert was being mined for saltpetre to make explosives for the weaponry of WWI. Overnight in Iquique. (B)

Day 5: IQUIQUE – SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA (550 KM / 342 MI)

Today you have a long drive ahead of you as you are heading south through the Pampa del Tamarugal. Eventually, you will turn east towards the famous Atacama Desert and the bustling oasis town of San Pedro de Atacama. Overnight in San Pedro de Atacama. (B)



Day 6: ATACAMA SALT FLAT AND MOON VALLEY (100 KM / 62 MI)

Taking full advantage of being in San Pedro, make sure to visit the well-known Atacama Salt Flat, the Salar de Atacama, and the Moon Valley. The Salar de Atacama is the largest salt flat in Chile. Surrounded by towering volcanoes and the Andes Mountain range, this stunning sight is simply unforgettable.

The impressive range of colours and textures found in the Valley of the Moon is reminiscent of the lunar surface. Otherworldly stone and sand formations that have been carved by the forces of erosion dot the eery landscape. Overnight in San Pedro. (B)

Day 7: EL TATIO AND PURITAMA (94 KM / 58 MI)

While in San Pedro, don't miss a visit to El Tatio Geysir. However, it is recommended to go with an organised group rather than on your own.

Before the break of dawn, depart 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 m above sea level. 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. Afterwards, on your way back to San Pedro, continue to the Puritama hot springs, where you can relax in the warm waters of these natural thermal hot springs.



Day 8: SAN PEDRO – CALAMA – ANTOFAGASTA (100 KM/62 MI TO CALAMA – 320 KM/199 MI TO ANTOFAGASTA)

After breakfast, return your car to either Calama or Antofagasta Airport or the downtown car rental office. (B)



Notes:

Rates are per person, based double occupancy. A single supplement applies for 1 pax.

Hotel we use in this program:

Aruma Codpa (Standard Room),
Hotel Qantati (Standard Room),
Diego de Almagro Arica (Standard City View Room),
Hotel NH Iquique (Standard City View Room),
Hotel La Casa de Don Tomas (Standard Room)

Included:

- 7 nights including breakfast
- 8 days car rental (Europcar category F2) including unlimited free mileage, local tax, and full CDW coverage with deductible (for details see rental contract)
- drop off charge
- 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.

Please note:

*We strongly recommend that your clients join a guided tour to visit the El Tatio Geysers on day 7, or follow one of the several tour vehicles to get to the geysers due to the darkness and the very complicated road conditions.

* Aruma Codpa is located in a small oasis in one of the driest deserts of the world. This means that water and electricity are not to be taken for granted. The generators are working well, however, occasional power outages can occur. There is always water, however, sometimes with very little pressure and guests should consider their use of water and electricity wisely.