

13 DAYS DISCOVER CHILE

DESTINATIONS

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination	Santiago
Meals included	
Accommodation	N/A

Clients on the group flight will usually arrive in the morning. A walking tour of the city tour is organised today (approx. 4 hours), visiting the squares and streets of the colonial centre and the Presidential Palace. We also visit San Cristobal Hill, on which a statue of the Virgin Mary stands. The summit of Cerro San Cristobal offers a birds-eye view of Santiago, the Andean Mountains and the Maipo-Valley. Without a doubt the best viewpoint in the city! If there is time we will also see the wealthy suburbs of the 'Barrio Alto', an area of elegant shops and first class restaurants. Please note that due to the arrival times of the group flights, the city tour will usually start around 2pm or 2:30pm. Land Only clients wishing to join the city tour would be advised to be at the hotel around 2pm in order to be collected.

DAY 2

Destination	Santiago 🚗 Valparaiso 🚗 Santiago
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

The historic World Heritage city of Valparaíso, or Valpo for short, is Chile's oldest port and home to the country's National Congress since democracy was re-established in 1989. The Pacific coast is just a short 1.5 hour drive from Santiago and today's excursion will give us an interesting insight into Chilean culture.

The city's many hills are covered in a glorious sprawl of multi-coloured houses covering every nook and cranny, creating a spectacular panorama which can be enjoyed from a number of vantage points. Strolling through the streets of Valparaíso is a fascinating experience which enables us to soak up the quirky and bohemian atmosphere, something different to anywhere else in Chile. We'll visit the UNESCO recognised historic city centre, in addition to the parliamentary building, and the War of the Pacific memorial.

Due to the steep terrain in some parts of the city, it is home to numerous funicular lifts which transport residents straight up and down the hillsides rather than them having to zigzag through the maze of buildings. Many of these lifts have fallen into disrepair and sit suspended in time and hidden amid the labyrinth. However, there is a drive to restore as many as possible and we'll be able to use one of the most iconic functioning lifts on our way to a viewpoint. In the afternoon we will return to our hotel in Santiago.

DAY 3

Destination	Santiago ✈️ Calama 🚗 San Pedro de Atacama
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

In the morning we fly to Calama near the Atacama Desert where we transfer to our hotel in the town of San Pedro de Atacama. Once we have checked in, the leader will offer a short orientation tour of the town for anyone who wants to join. At dusk we set out to the Valley of the Moon. This bizarre lunar landscape is set ablaze with colour at sunset, the strange rock formations framed by the Lincancabur Volcano. We'll stay until the sun goes down to enjoy the array of colours before returning to San Pedro.

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DAY 4

Destination	San Pedro de Atacama 🚗 Salar de Atacama 🚗 Altiplano lagoons 🚗 San Pedro de Atacama
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Departing our hotel in San Pedro, we will set off towards the Altiplano Lagoons (Lagunas Altiplanicas) and stop en route at the village of Socaire, set at 3218m/10,558ft. The village is noteworthy for its peculiar architecture using rough stonework and the inhabitants here still live by the age-old methods of planting terraced fields with corn, wheat and potatoes.

Afterwards, we continue for about another 30km/19miles, climbing an additional 1000m/3,281ft in altitude to reach the highland lagoons of Miscanti and Miñiques. The two volcanoes of the same name are visible in the background (almost 6000m/19,686ft high). The twin lagoons are a deep blue, each framed by a white salt crust, which creates a memorable contrast to the yellow highland grass all around. It is completely silent here. Even the duck species that breed here, the foxes, and the grazing vicuñas (a type of camelid), respect the majestic silence.

We continue on and visit the Salar de Atacama. A salt lake of huge proportions (3000 sq km/1,158 sq miles), its surface is covered by a thick layer of snow-white salt crystals as far as the eye can see, caused by the evaporation of the lake's water. The world's largest lithium deposits are found here, but the salt pan is also home to several flamingo species, including the Andean, Chilean and James flamingo, who feed on the micro-organisms found in the saline lagoons. These beautiful birds and other species can be observed in their natural habitat at the Salar de Atacama's Chaxa Lagoon, which is part of the Reserva Nacional de los Flamencos. After the excursion we will return to San Pedro.

DAY 5

Destination	San Pedro de Atacama 🚗 El Tatio geysers 🚗 San Pedro de Atacama
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

To experience the El Tatio Geysers we'll have to get up very early in order to arrive at the geyser field (located over 4300m/14,108ft above sea level) in time for sunrise! The fountains that shoot up to 10m/33ft high occur when the morning sun melts the nightly ice caps that form over the hot springs. The sun's first rays reflect an array of colours as they mix with boiling jets coming from the geysers to create strong contrasts of steam and light.

At around midday we'll head back to San Pedro for some free time. There is an optional astronomy tour tonight that can be paid for locally but should be booked in advance of departure as availability is limited (Please note that this tour doesn't operate on full moon days and is not recommended 3 days before or after the full moon).

DAY 6

Destination	San Pedro de Atacama ✈️ Puerto Montt 🚗 Puerto Varas
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today we transfer to Calama airport and fly to Santiago and then Puerto Montt, the capital of the Lake District. This is a long travelling day that will likely require an early start depending on the flight schedules. On arrival in the Lake District region we drive for 30 minutes to Puerto Varas on the shores of Lago Llanquihue. Depending on flight arrival

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time, we can enjoy a brief tour of the 'City of the Roses' as it has come to be called because of the tremendous variety of roses all over town. If we arrive on a later flight unfortunately this will not be possible. If scheduled to arrive on a later flight, we also recommend buying some food at the airport as you may not have any options on arrival at your hotel.

DAY 7

Destination	Puerto Varas [Cruise] Lago Todos Los Santos boat trip 🚶 near Osorno Volcano 🚗 Puerto Varas
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

We set out this morning for a full day inside the Lake District. We drive along the shore of Lago Llanquihue and enjoy breathtaking views of the Osorno and Calbuco volcanoes. Our first real stop will be at the Saltos de Petrohue where cooling lava from the Osorno Volcano formed a series of rapids and waterfalls. Together they form an impressive sculpture of extruded volcanic rock shaped by thousands of years of river flow. At Petrohue we board a boat for a short cruise of Lago Todos los Santos (All Saints Lake). The lake is surrounded by high mountains and the lower slopes are thickly forested. As we pull away from the landing and the source of the river Petrohue the view is quickly stolen away by the tremendous size and proximity of snow-capped Osorno Volcano behind us. After our boat tour, we return to Petrohue and take a hike in the lower lava fields of the volcano. We also visit the Green Lagoon (Laguna Verde) before we return towards Puerto Varas in the afternoon. Please note that the order of the itinerary today may change depending on the weather conditions.

DAY 8

Destination	Puerto Varas 🚗 Puerto Montt ✈ Punta Arenas 🚗 Puerto Natales
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

After breakfast we transfer to the capital of the Lake District, Puerto Montt, and take a sightseeing tour of the city. Puerto Montt was founded in 1853 by German colonists on the site of an indigenous Mapuche community. Downtown we take time to walk about the main squares and historical monuments. Afterwards we visit the port, where there is a large handicraft market full of artisan goods. Please note that depending on the flight times, this tour might be moved to the previous day instead. We then transfer to the airport to board a flight to Punta Arenas, Patagonia - the southernmost city in Chile. From here we transfer to Puerto Natales where we spend the night.

DAY 9

Destination	Puerto Natales 🚗 Torres del Paine N.P.
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

This morning we drive into Torres del Paine National Park for a day of excursions within a spectacular environment. This is a busy day of travelling and walking including unforgettable views of the Towers and the Torres Massif from the 'Cuernos' viewpoint and 'Salto Grande' waterfall. In addition to being introduced to the flora and fauna of the region, today we will also visit 'Laguna Azul' for more breath-taking views.

DAY 10


Destination	Torres del Paine N.P.
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

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Another day in Torres del Paine National Park, this time to explore the Western highlights including Lake Grey. This deep lake, fed by the glacier of the same name, is filled with icebergs which have splashed down from the massive ice flow. From the hotel, we'll drive to a spot to the south of the lake, then start a short hike by crossing a suspension bridge over the Pingo River. From here the path leads through a Legna forest typical to the area, and continues onward to the tip of the narrow peninsula at the lake's southern end. This viewpoint offers a spectacular view of the lake with its icebergs, the tongue of Grey Glacier at the far northern end, and the snow-covered mountain peaks soaring above. On the way back a stop is made at the Park Visitors Centre to see an exposition of the origin and history of the park. This afternoon is free to relax at the hotel or enjoy some optional excursions in the area.

DAY 11

Destination	Torres del Paine N.P  Puerto Natales
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

This morning we have some free time or take part in an optional boat excursion which takes you to the Grey Glacier. For anyone not wanting to take the optional excursion, the leader will accompany you on visits to other areas of Torres del Paine. Afterwards we will regroup and visit the Milodon Cave (entrance fee not included and payee locally approx. US\$ 8 per person). Today we will end in Puerto Natales and transfer together to the hotel, arriving around 5.30pm.

DAY 12

Destination	Puerto Natales  Punta Arenas  Santiago
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Transfer through the barren Pampa of Patagonia, an impressive road trip as we journey to Punta Arenas airport. We fly back to Santiago (flight times can vary) and enjoy our final evening in Chile.

DAY 13

Destination	Santiago
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

There is a transfer back to the airport for those on group flights. Those on land only arrangements will leave us in Santiago this morning.

TOUR ITINERARY

Inclusions

WHATS INCLUDED

Visit the unique and colourful Pacific Coast city of Valparaiso
Excursions to Atacama salt flats, altiplano lagoons, El Tatio geysers
Sunset over the Valley of the Moon in the Atacama Desert
City tours in cosmopolitan Santiago, German influenced Puerto Varas, and the fish market of Puerto Montt
See the Petrohue Falls, enjoy a boat cruise on Lago Lago Todos los Santos, and walk at Osorno Volcano
Patagonia and the famous granite towers of Torres del Paine National Park
Internal flights included, reducing driving distances so that we can visit four distinct regions of Chile
Superior twin share accommodation
Sightseeing and transportation as per the itinerary

Fine Print

HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

"Deposit & Payments

Book now and secure your package with only a \$800 deposit per person.
Pay a 2nd instalment of \$1227 per person within 28 days.
You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.
Booking Process

Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)
Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment. You may also pay via BPAY (not available within 70 days of departure)
Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
Your position on the tour will be confirmed within 48 hours of completing your order. If your place cannot be confirmed, a full refund of the deposit will occur"

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OPTIONAL TOURS	Optional Night-Time Astronomy Tour from San Pedro de Atacama Optional Grey Glacier navigation from Torres del Paine N.P.
EXCLUSIONS	Airfares Personal Expenses Travel Insurance Optional activities Anything not mentioned in the itinerary or optional
HOTEL LIST	Santiago - Hotel Providencia (or similar) San Pedro de Atacama - Hotel Diego de Almagro (or similar) Puerto Varas - Hotel Park Inn by Radisson (or similar) Puerto Natales - Hostal Francis Drake (or similar) Torres del Paine N.P. - Hotel del Paine (or similar) Puerto Natales - Hostal Francis Drake (or similar) Santiago - Hotel Providencia (or similar)
IMPORTANT INFORMATION	<p>Accommodation The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however, any changes are beyond our control.</p> <p>Single Supplement A single supplement is available on all nights of this trip from an extra \$1886 subject to availability.</p> <p>Triple Share Not available.</p> <p>Children Children must be 5 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.</p> <p>Tour Documentation Final documentation will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.</p> <p>Activity Level This tour is classified Road: activity level 3 (Moderate)</p> <p>4 days cycling (plus one optional days ride) with an average distance of 45km per day with full vehicle support.</p>

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The rides mainly follow tarmac roads, but where possible on the islands we will use the quieter older roads that tend to be hard gravel. The roads are quiet and there is less traffic on the islands than the mainland. The route will be generally undulating but there are a few challenging hills that can be tough in the warm weather. The trip is vehicle supported so it is possible to miss some of these harder sections if you prefer. At times the route will follow roads or tracks with a steep down slope to one side. Certain sections will not have a barrier.

No specific cycling experience required but you should be comfortable on a bike and have a reasonable level of fitness.

Following a review of all our trips we have categorised this trip as generally not suitable for persons of reduced mobility. However if you are a regular traveller on such trips, please contact customer services to discuss the trip and your personal condition.