

DISCOVERING THE ATACAMA DESERT (5D-4N) (DSPA) (08-09)

Based in a comfortable hotel at the town of San Pedro, a quietly historical and cultural town set peacefully in the midst of a changing geography, featuring enormous extensions of sand, vast salt flats, pretty little valleys and snow-capped volcanoes almost six thousand meters in height, we invite you to discover the main attraction of the driest desert in the world and arqueological capital of Chile.

Day 1 Transfer from Calama's airport to your hotel in the oasis town of San Pedro de Atacama.

PM: Trekking to Moon Valley

Departure will be at 16:00 from the hotel. After 35 minutes by car, we will arrive at our starting point, going into an unknown gorge, advancing through a maze of saline formations, where your mind will certainly discover amazing shapes. The route will lead us ascending to the summit of the Great Dune of the central crater of Valle de la Luna. Here we will wait for the sunset, contemplating a marvellous view of the valley and the Andes. Finally, we will descend towards the car, which will take us back to San Pedro.



Night: Astronomic Tour

This tour is made by a French engineer specialized in photography, with a wide experience in astronomy, working as a scientific photographer in Costa Azul Observatory (France), Observatory Palomar of California (USA), La Silla Observatory (Chile). He settled a year ago with his agency, making sky observations, in a privileged and unique place in the world to do so, like San Pedro de Atacama. The tour starts with an explanation of geographic facts, main constellations and their historic and poetic significations. Then we make the observation of the sky through big and high quality telescopes.



(One hour by private transfer) (Night at Hotel)

Day 2 AM: Tambillo- Valle de la Muerte (Death Valley)

We will travel towards the ayllu (shelter) at Catarpe, continuing up river to start the trek at Tambillo. We will ascend the Cordillera de la Sal through an old path used by muleteers until we get to the summit. The road continues through a long ledge, on which we will trek almost for two hours, having an impressive view of the valley of Rio San Pedro, Tambo Inca, and the Andes Mountains. Then we will descend some steep dunes towards the heart of the Valle de la Muerte (valley of death), where a car will be waiting to take us back.

PM: Visit to the Archaeological Museum, Pukara (fortress) of Quitor and Tulo Village

We shall visit the archaeological museum Gustavo Le Paige, to become familiar with the atacamenian, tiwanaku and Inca cultures and population (settlements). Later on, we will continue our trip towards the Pukara (fortress) at Quitor, ending with a visit to the Tulo village, dated around the year 800 BC.



(B) (Night at Hotel)

Day 3 Altiplanic lakes (Miscanti, Miñiques, Aguas Calientes, Tuyaytu)



This excursion requires a full day of exploring. Departure is at 8:00 a.m., travelling towards the south, going first through the village of Socaire, where we will observe the ancient agricultural tradition of terraced plantations, and its beautiful church from the XVII century. Then we will ascend to 4.200 meters, to the Miscanti and Miñiques lakes. Here we will take a rest, while an aperitif and buffet lunch is served. We will then continue our trip towards the Aguas Calientes Salt flats, and finally to the Tuyaytu lake. During the trip, various types of Andean high plateau birds and animals can be observed. The return trip will start at 17:00 hrs.

(B-BL) (Night at Hotel)

Day 4 AM: Geysers of the Tatio, Puritama Hot Springs

Departure is at 4:30 a.m. along the way you will enjoy sunrise in the high plateau, and observe birds and animals moving peacefully around the area at that hour. Around 7:30 a.m. we will arrive at the geysers of El



Tatio, where great steam columns of up to 6 meters rise up from the ground. A spectacle not to be missed. On our trip back to San Pedro, we shall stop at the Puritama hot springs, to take a well-deserved bath at 35 degrees (Celsius), surrounded by great reeds and the infinitely blue sky. Here we will also enjoy an appetizer. For this excursion we advise you to wear very warm clothes, take a lighter set of clothes for when the sun comes out, and a swimsuit for the hot

springs.

PM: Trekking to Cari's Gorge

Departure is at 16:00 hrs. We will take the road that leads to Calama, approximately 10 kilometres into it, and take a turn through an old path towards the highest part of the Cordillera de la Sal (Salt mountain range). From this vantage point we will enjoy a spectacular view. Then we will start our trek, following a narrow ledge, until we find a dune that will take us down. Later we will penetrate into the Quebrada Cari (Cari Gorge), going through spectacular landscapes, observing various sediment formations, tunnels, and curious saline structures. At the end of the gorge, a car will be waiting to take us back



(B) (Night at Hotel)

Day 5 AM: Transfer from San Pedro de Atacama to Calama's airport

(B)

REGARDING THE SCHEDULE
The schedules indicated above are subject to change due to weather conditions or unexpected circumstances beyond our control, but we will try our best to keep them unaltered

<i>PRICE per person</i>	<i>2 passengers</i>	<i>3 - 4 passengers</i>	<i>5 - 8 passengers</i>	<i>Single Supplement</i>
<i>Hotel Altiplanico or Hotel Kimal</i>	USD \$ 1.695	USD \$ 1.395	USD \$ 1.295	USD \$ 215
<i>Hotel Casa de Don Tomas or Hosteria San Pedro de Atacama</i>	USD \$ 1.595	USD \$ 1.295	USD \$ 1.195	USD \$ 195

INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All the private transportation indicated in the schedule -Four nights at Hotel of your choice in San Pedro de Atacama -All meals indicated in the schedule (B: breakfast, BL: lunch buffet) -Admission tickets to National Parks -Entrance fee to the astronomic tour -Entrance fee to the La Paige Museum -Entrance fee to El Tatio Geyser -Entrance fee to Puritama Hot Sprint -Specialize Guide (English-Spanish languages) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Flight to Santiago, Chile -Flight to Calama -Any additional nights -Medical expenses -Insurance of any kind -Personal expenses -Gratuities for guide & driver