



4  
DAYS

## *VERTICAL ECOLOGY*

*A visit through the natural wealth of Atacama*

*Atacama Salt Flat  
Chaxa Lake  
Cejar Lake  
Astronomy  
Moon Valley  
Hierbas Buenas Petroglyphs  
Rainbow Valley  
Altiplanic Lakes Tuyajto & Red  
Rocks (Talar Salt Flat)  
Tatio Geysers*

Stay in the traditional village of San Pedro. This trip includes the most interesting and known sights of the Atacama, as well as impressive landscapes that many miss. The first day we will visit the salt flat and its lakes, combining geology, observation of flora and fauna with a visit to the Cejar lake where you can bathe and float in its salt water. That night, science and legend come together in our astronomical night. Then you can admire the salt range's geology and the impressive plutonic formations in the Rainbow Valley as well as learn about the historical roots of Andean culture through the petroglyphs of Hierbas Buenas. The third day we will visit the Tuyajto and Red Rocks lakes in the Altiplano, marveling with how landscapes vary when exploring the vertical ecology. Finally, we will not only enjoy breakfast in the Tatio Geysers, but also the greatest variety of fauna and flora we'll see during our trip.

**ATACAMA**  
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**5 NIGHTS AND 4 DAYS. INCLUDES ONLY INDICATED MEALS. IF YOU WANT TO ADD ACCOMMODATIONS IN SAN PEDRO AND TRANSFERS FROM CALAMA, VISIT OUR WEBSITE.**



DAY 01

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Toconao village
- > San Lucas church and gardens
- > Atacama Salt Flat
- > Chaxa Lake
- > Cejar Lake (bathing)
  
- > Astronomy Observatory

Altitude 2500 meters.  
Distance: 135 km.

Accommodations:  
San Pedro of Atacama.  
Meals: Breakfast at your hotel  
+ Lunch.

*Atacama Salt Flats - Lakes Chaxa & Cejar*

09.00 hrs. (Duration 5-6 hrs)

We head south along the salt flat. On the way, we see the base camp of the astronomical observatory A.L.M.A. And then we cross the Tambillo reserve, a tamarugo tree forest planted in the 60's. We start our excursion in the village of Toconao, there we will see the San Lucas church, a national monument. Then we will discover a labyrinth of gardens in the middle of the desert.

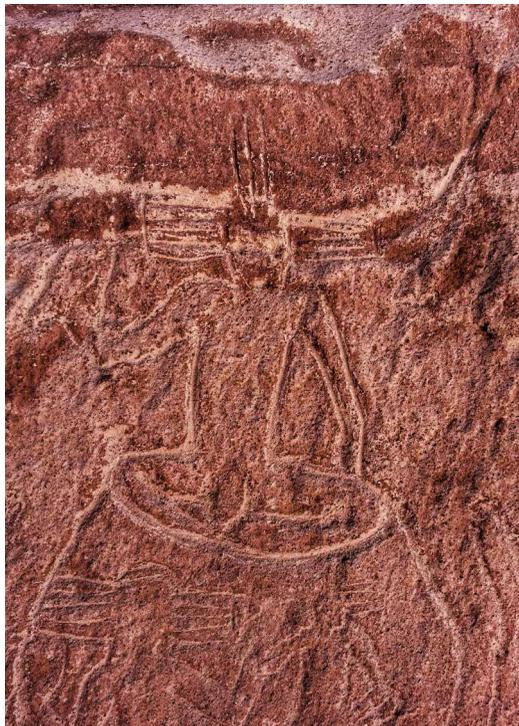
We continue our journey towards the heart of the Atacama Salt Flat to see the flamingos that inhabit the Chaxa lake and observe the strange formations of the brine soil. Here we will enjoy a nice lunch.

Finally we go to Cejar lake, a type of geological formation called cenote, on its coasts are crystallized salts and its crystalline waters are so salty that when you bathe in them it's impossible to sink. There are changers and showers here.

*Astronomy* (Subject to weather and moon phases)

21.00 hrs. (Duration 2 hrs)

We'll visit an observatory to enjoy the Atacama night sky, one of the most impressive in the world, even through the naked eye. The experience consists of 3 parts, a theoretical presentation, direct observation of the Milky Way and we end with deep space observation through a telescope.



DAY 02

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Moon Valley
- > Great Dune
- > Amphitheater
- > Three Marys
  
- > Hierbas Buenas Petroglyphs
- > Rainbow Valley

Maximum Altitude 3200 meters.  
Distance: 187 km.

Accommodations:  
San Pedro of Atacama.  
Meals: Breakfast at your hotel  
+ Lunch.

*Moon Valley*

09.15 hrs. (Duration 8 hrs)

We drive up the Salt Mountain Range. Its landscapes make us travel to other geological times; The bare earth shows the planet's enormous forces in a dramatic gesture of the elements. The folding of the soil produces a huge cut in the sedimentary fill of the Atacama basin, where the crystals forged in their depths appear. In the Moon Valley, the evaporite (salt) that covers it, gives it a lunar appearance. We will stop at the most attractive points according to your interests and capabilities.

**Trek option: 4 hrs. Hike that begins at the Kari lookout, we enter this incredible panoramic view of the salt mountain range and we cross tunnels and deep canyons to reach the Moon Valley. We continue by car and visit its points of interest. 5 km.**

*Petroglyphs & Rainbow Valley*

We keep climbing the Domeyko range where we visit the archaeological site of Hierbas Buenas. Here the ancient Atacameños speak to us through the petroglyphs carved in the walls of ignimbrite rocks, between the shelters of the "caravaneros".

We end with a visit to the Rainbow Valley, with its impressive plutonic formations that surface thanks to the movement of the tectonic plates allowing to flourish strokes of intense red, white and green colors and their combinations under a brilliant blue sky completing the rainbow. We have lunch outdoors with this landscape.



DAY 03

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Tropic of Capricorn
- > Socaire Village
- > Talar Salt Flat
- > Tuyajto Lake

Altitude 4140 meters  
Distance: 325 km.

Accommodations:  
San Pedro of Atacama.  
Meals: Breakfast at your hotel  
+ Lunch.

*08.30 hrs. (Duration 6-8 hrs)*

We travel south along the salt flat and across the Tropic of Capricorn. As we go up we take perspective of the basin revealing the huge pools where lithium is exploited and lakes that form at the edge of the salt flat. We pass through the village of Socaire that stands out for its millenarian terraces, and we continue our journey through the plateau until we arrive at Tuyajto, a lake lined with salt hexagons. Then we go to Talar, better known as Red Rocks, here we will have lunch with vicuñas and flamingos in an old refuge.



DAY 04

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Tatio Geysers
- > Putana wetlands
- > Machuca salt flat (Flamingos)

Altitude: 4320 meters .

Distance: 200 km.

Accommodations:

San Pedro of Atacama.

Meals: Breakfast or Lunch in trek option.

05.30 hrs. (Duration 5-7 hrs; schedule varies with season)

We travel north directly to the Tatio Mallku geysers, this is the third largest geothermal field in the world. On the way back we enjoy vast and varied landscapes, we also witness the ancient activities of the inhabitants of the plateau; The sulfur mining, the gathering of the Llareta and the raising of llamas. We pass the Putana wetlands, brimming with life and a variety of birds. Then we see from the heights the town of Machuca and in its surroundings, llamas and a small salt flat with flamingos. In the descent we have a panoramic view of the Atacama Salt Flat. Excellent excursion to observe the variety of the highland fauna. Breakfast or lunch included depending on the time of departure.

**Trek option: 2-3 hrs. We start in the main part of the geothermal field and follow the river formed by the great White Geyser to its source. This low difficulty walk allows us to get close to nature and bathe in hot springs. Lunch in the White Geyser. 4.2 km.**