



# explora ATACAMA

explorations





## HIKES

Our hikes have been designed according to different interests and levels of skill. They vary in length and difficulty so we always recommend travelers to talk to their guides before choosing an exploration. Every evening, guides brief travelers on the different explorations, so that they can choose one that best fit their interests. Exploration times do not consider transportation.

### Easy

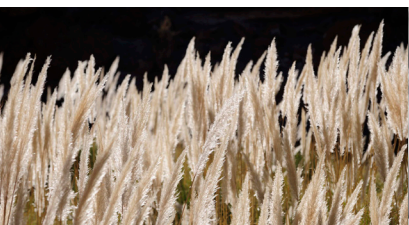
**T1 Cuchabrache**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed: 0**  
**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 2h 30 min  
**Distance:** 5,7 km / 3,6 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 2.698 m.a.s.l. / 9.803 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** Departure by van from *explora* to the source of the San Pedro River. Uphill hike that leads to the summit, with views of the green valley of Catarpe against La Sal Mountains and Los Andes' volcanoes. This is a great opportunity to enjoy panoramic views, the desert's silence, and to get a general idea of the Atacama territory. Return to the hotel by van.

**T2 Reserva Tatio**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed: 2**  
**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 1h  
**Distance:** 2,3 km / 1,4 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 4.321 m.a.s.l / 14.176 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** This exploration offers a different way of visiting the Tatio geysers, a geothermal field with over 80 boiling water sources. In this trip there are excellent opportunities of studying the highlands fauna, which includes vicuñas, flamingos and foxes, among others. We walk through the reserve with views of The Mountains and steaming hot water sources. Return to the hotel by van.

**T3 Quezar Puritama**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed: 1**  
**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 2h  
**Distance:** 3,5 km / 2,2 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 3.539 m.a.s.l / 11.610 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** Departing by van from the hotel, we head north until we get to an old grazing farm. From there, we descend through a ravine into a slightly upward trail that leads to the Puritama hot springs, where we enjoy its swimming pools. To bathe in these thermal waters, at approximately 32°C (90°F), is a stimulating experience for both the body and the spirit. The first thermal well has been reserved for our travelers. Return to the hotel by van.  
*\*Please bring swimsuit and sandals. Towels will be provided.*

**T4 Cornisas**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed: 0**  
**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 2h 30 min  
**Distance:** 6,7 kms / 4,2 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 2.710 m.a.s.l / 8.891 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** Departing by van, we head toward the Catarpe Valley by an old road. From there, we hike along the ledges of La Sal Mountains, with panoramic views of the oasis, the Atacama salt flat, and The, La Sal, and Domeyko Mountains, three mountain ranges that shape the region's geography. By the end of the exploration we descend through Marte Valley's sand dunes. This is a good opportunity to learn more about the local history, geography and archaeology. Return to the hotel by van.

**T5 Kari**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed: 0**  
**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 2h 30 min  
**Distance:** 5,6 km / 3,5 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 2.606 m.a.s.l / 8.549 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** Departure by van from *explora* to La Sal Mountains, where we walk along the Kari ravine, a canyon formed by water erosion and surrounded by huge sedimentary walls of clay, gypsum, and salt. During the hike, we'll tackle different kinds of slopes, descending through a sand dune and two waterfalls (these only carry water during the rainy season). Return to the hotel by van.



**T6 Puricamar**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed: 0**

**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 2h  
**Distance:** 4,6 km / 2,9 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 2.577 m.a.s.l / 8.454 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departing by van from the hotel, we head toward La Luna Valley. From here, we hike through the reserve's south side, one of its least explored areas. The landscape has rock formations, natural sculptures, and huge sand dunes. By the end of the hike, we enjoy a 360° view from La Sal Mountains to the Atacama Desert. Return to the hotel by van.

**T8 Guatín – Punta del Inca**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed: 1**

**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 2h 30 min  
**Distance:** 3,5 km / 2,2 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 3.204 m.a.s.l / 10.511 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by van from *explora* we take the road toward the Guatín village, at the confluence of the Puritama and Purifica Rivers. For the most part, this exploration goes through a cactus valley. The trail follows the river along a canyon, crossing it several times, and descending by the edge of waterfalls (with falls of 3 meters/ 10 feet, approximately). Finally, leaving the canyon, we enjoy panoramic views of Atacama. Return to the hotel by van.

**T10 Guatín – Puritama**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed: 1**

**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 2h 30 min  
**Distance:** 4,8 km / 3 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 3.539 m.a.s.l / 11.610 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by van from *explora* to Guatín, a small shepherd village, where we begin an uphill hike that leads to the edge of the ravine of the Puritama River (Puritama means hot water in Kunza language). We walk for 45 minutes surrounding the ravine until we reach the river's edge, where old Atacama settlements and the source of Puritama hot springs are located. Here, we have a light snack and enjoy the warm water pools. This exploration offers archeological and anthropological nuances, and an opportunity to get to know the local flora and fauna. Return to the hotel by van.

*\* Recommended for travelers who want to get acclimatized to the next level hikes that reach 4.000 m.a.s.l. (13200 feet). Please bring a swimsuit and sandals. Towels will be provided..*

**Moderate**

**T7 Matancilla**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed: 1**

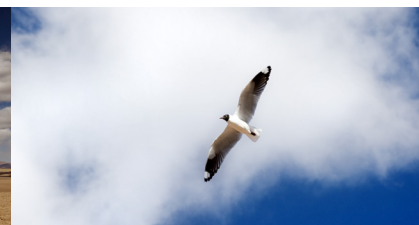
**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 2h 30 min  
**Distance:** 4,8 km / 3 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 3.292 m.a.s.l / 10.800 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by van from the hotel toward the Domeyko Mountains, home of the guanaco, a mammal of the Camelidae family. We visit archaeological sites with cave paintings and walk through a ravine that was used as a caravan route for trade and foraging by several ancient people that populated the Atacama Desert. By the end of the hike, we arrive to the Arcoiris Valley, a site with huge earth walls. Rich in minerals, these walls render a multicolored landscape.

**T9 Kamur**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed: 0**

**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 3h 30 min  
**Distance:** 7,4 km / 4,6 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 2.571 m.a.s.l / 8.435 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by van from *explora* to La Luna Valley where we enjoy the varied scenery of La Sal Mountains, where the wind and water erosion have carved the land into stone sculptures, geological formations and sand dunes. We walk across several valleys and vast plains, typical of the desert landscape. Return to the hotel by van.



**T11 Kulamar**

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 2

**Type:** Full day

**Duration:** 5h

**Distance:** 9,7 km / 6,1 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 4.141 m.a.s.l / 13.585 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by van from the hotel, we take the road to Argentina toward the the Andean Highlands. We begin the walk at over 4.000 m.a.s.l. (13.123 f.a.s.l) with views of several salt flats and highland hills. With birdwatching opportunities, this exploration leads us through salt flats until we reach the pass of the Mochota Hill, with views of the Aguas Calientes salt flat. Finally, we have lunch at a spot that will be selected depending on weather conditions.

**T12 Ruta del Agua**

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 1

**Type:** Full day

**Duration:** 5h

**Distance:** 9,6 km / 6 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 3.819 m.a.s.l / 12.529 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by van from the hotel toward the north side of the Puritama Natural Reserve. We start hiking with views of the The Mountains, its volcanoes and the Atacama salt flat basin. To get to the hot springs, we walk across several ravines, some of them deep and others shallow. The hike offers a chance to note several changes in the flora and visit the habitat of the Andean mountain cat, one of the world's least studied endangered species. At the hot springs, we have a light lunch and enjoy the thermal pools. In the evening, we keep walking along the ravine toward Guatin, a grazing area. Because of the contrasts in flora and fauna due to elevation changes, this hike offers a chance to visit intermediate ravines between the oasis and The Mountains.

*\*Please bring a swimming suit and sandals. Towels will be provided.*

*Not recommended for travelers with vertigo.*

**T13 Gato Andino**

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 2

**Type:** Full day

**Duration:** 5h

**Distance:** 7,5 km / 4,7 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 4.360 m.a.s.l / 14.304 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by van toward the Argentinean border in central Andes where we hike through remote and colorful landscapes. We walk through unusual rock formations and highland salt flats with views of the mountains. Return to the hotel by van.

**Advanced**

**T14 Río Blanco**

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 2

**Type:** Full day

**Duration:** 5h

**Distance:** 7,3 km / 4,6 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 4.408 m.a.s.l / 14.461 f.a.s.l

**Description:** This exploration offers a different perspective on the Tatio geysers. We depart by van toward the geothermal field where we begin an upward hike with views of the geysers and the Andes Mountains. Then, we descend through an open ravine leading to a little-known warm-water river. We walk along the river through mineral formations typical of this of geological region.

*\* Not recommended for travelers with vertigo.*

**T15 Quebrada de Nacimiento**

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 2

**Type:** Full day

**Duration:** 6h 30 min

**Distance:** 9,6 km / 5,9 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 4.148 m.a.s.l / 14.461 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by van toward the Socaire village. Here, we start the exploration, climbing toward the entrance of the Nacimiento ravine with panoramic views of the volcanoes. We descend through the ravine and have a light snack. Then, we keep hiking through old shepherd paths, following the river and surrounded by rock walls. Return to *explora* by van.







**BIKE RIDES**

*explora* offers you the chance to discover by bicycle the unusual geography of the Atacama Desert. We have all the equipment needed to ensure travelers' comfort and safety during explorations.

**Easy**

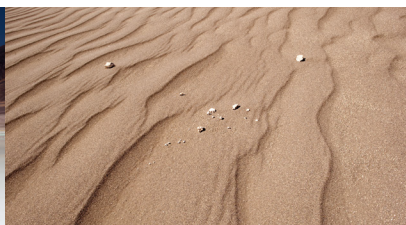
- B1 Ayllus**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 0  
**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 2h 30 min  
**Distance:** 25 km / 15,6 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 2.450 m.a.s.l / 8.038 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** We depart by bicycle from *explora* toward the archaeological Tulo and Beter sites. The later is a colonial Atacama settlement where we learn a little bit about the local history and walk along the archaeological remains. After this stop, we continue biking until we reach the ayllu de Solor where we get to see how Atacama people live nowadays. Return to the hotel by bicycle.

- B2 Arcoíris**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 1  
**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 2h  
**Distance:** 13 km / 8,1 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 3.268 m.a.s.l / 10.721 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** We depart by van from *explora* toward the Domeyko Mountains, where we begin cycling along a steep trail, surrounded by thick multicolored walls, until we reach the valley's ravine. In this exploration we might see guanacos and other local fauna, in addition to the diverse local flora. Return to the hotel by van.

**Moderate**

- B3 Valle de la Luna**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 0  
**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 4h  
**Distance:** 24 km / 14,9 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 2.560 m.a.s.l / 8.398 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** Departure by van from *explora* toward La Sal Mountains. Here, we begin cycling from La Paciencia plain toward La Luna Valley through a captivating landscape. We return to *explora* by bicycle. The return roads are very different from one another and include uneven slopes, with several ascend and descends

- B4 Piedra de la Coca**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 1  
**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 3h  
**Distance:** 25 km / 15,5 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 2.560 m.a.s.l / 8.398 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** Departure by van from *explora* toward the Catarpe Valley. We take a detour through an ancient dirt road up to La Sal Mountains. After cycling through an historic tunnel, we begin descending across dry riverbeds into Piedra de la Coca, an area with petroglyphs. We continue over the La Paciencia plain biking through more dry riverbeds and rocky paths. We return to the hotel by bicycle through the Marte Valley.



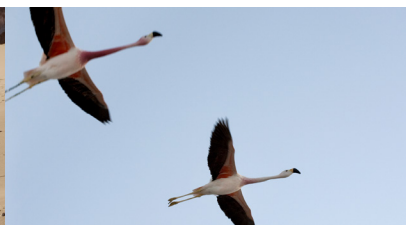
Advanced

**B5 Tambo**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 1  
**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 3h 30 min  
**Distance:** 30 km / 18,8 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 2.653 m.a.s.l / 8.704 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** We depart from the hotel and cycle across the Catarpe Valley. We ascend toward Cuchabrache through an old road that goes across La Sal Mountains, where we pass by several gypsum and salt ravines. During this bicycle exploration, travelers can appreciate the local culture, observe the petroglyphs and visit the San Isidro Chapel.

**B6 Andes**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 2  
**Type:** Full day  
**Duration:** 4h  
**Distance:** 33 km / 20,5 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 4.525 m.a.s.l / 14.845 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** This exploration is our first bicycle route in the high Andean highlands. We depart by van toward the Argentinean border. There, we cycle at over 4.000 m.a.s.l. (13.123 f.a.s.l.) passing through plains and multicolored mountains. This remote adventure is a challenge worth experiencing.

Expert

**B7 Río Grande – San Bartolo**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 2  
**Type:** Full day  
**Duration:** 4h  
**Distance:** 25 km / 15,6 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 3.250 m.a.s.l / 10.662 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** We depart by van from *explora* toward Rio Grande, from where we begin cycling along shepherd paths on the side of the river. During this exploration, we pass through different ravines. In some of them we will need to get off the bike and walk it along. The strength of this exploration is that it offers speed changes and direct contact with nature. Return to the hotel by van.





## HORSEBACK RIDES

Horse rides depart from the *explora* stables located in the hotel's premises. Our horse explorations have been designed for all type of riders: beginners, those who feel comfortable riding a horse in open spaces, and seasoned riders.

Advanced horse rides are for those travelers who feel comfortable riding a horse for more than three hours and who are capable of handling it in all sorts of circumstances.

### Easy

#### H1 Ayllus

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 0

**Type:** Half day

**Duration:** 2h 30 min

**Distance:** 10 km / 6,2 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 2.450 m.a.s.l / 8.038 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by horse from *explora* toward the ayllus of Séquitor, Yaye, and Checar –all of these are social and farming communities of the ancient Atacama people. Located in small oasis in the middle of the desert, crops are still being grown in them.

#### H2 Solor

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 0

**Type:** Half day

**Duration:** 2h 30 min

**Distance:** 11 km / 6,9 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 2.450 m.a.s.l / 8.038 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by horse from *explora* toward the south of San Pedro and the ayllu of Solor. Along the road, we can appreciate the traditional building techniques of the desert, with *adobe* walls and thatched roofs. The ride continues toward the Andes Mountains, crossing the Vilama river, until we reach the ayllu of Solor. We stroll through its walled streets and learn more about one of the most developed farming practices in the Atacama oasis. We return to *explora* through the pampa.

#### H3 Dunas de la Chula

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 0

**Type:** Half day

**Duration:** 2h

**Distance:** 8 km / 5 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 2.500 m.a.s.l / 8.202 f.a.s.l

**Description:** We depart the hotel toward the La Sal Mountains. Along the way, we cross the San Pedro River and go through some dunes, from where we enjoy a panoramic view of the Andes and the oasis. Then, we enter a dry riverbed that leads to the Valley of the Dinosaurs and return to *explora* through the pampa.

#### H4 Cúcuter

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 0

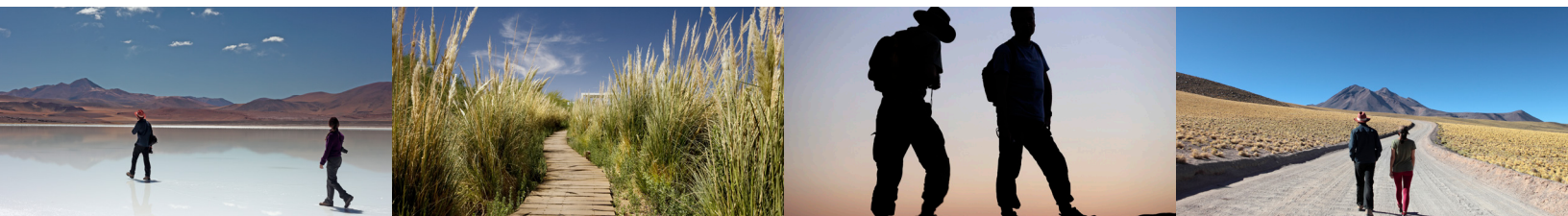
**Type:** Half day

**Duration:** 1h 15 min

**Distance:** 7 km / 4,4 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 2.450 m.a.s.l / 8.038 f.a.s.l

**Description:** We ride from *explora* toward the ayllu of Cúcuter, an oasis in the middle of the desert. Here, the green vegetation and the chañar trees contrast with the landscape of the desert and the milky colors of Atacama salt flat.



Moderate

**H5 Beter**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 0  
**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 3h 30 min  
**Distance:** 18 km / 11 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 2.450 m.a.s.l / 8.038 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** Departure by horse from *explora* toward the ayllu of Solor, where we can observe the communal lifestyle and local traditions. The ride continues through a trail that leads to the Beter sand dunes, where we can appreciate the flora of the saline regions. Arriving to Beter, we get off our horses and visit an archeological site. We return to *explora* by horse.

**H6 Valle de Marte**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 0  
**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 3h  
**Distance:** 15 km / 9,4 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 2.500 m.a.s.l / 8.202 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** We depart by horse from the hotel toward the Marte Valley. Here, we ride through desert landscapes with reddish sedimentary formations and clay esplanades. This exploration is ideal for travelers who want to get a general idea of La Sal Mountains' geography.

**H7 Cornisas**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 0  
**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 3h 30 min  
**Distance:** 18 km / 11,3 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 2.710 m.a.s.l / 8.891 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** Departure by horse from *explora* toward the Catarpe Valley through a road surrounded by oasis fields. We trot and gallop our horses before ascending through the ledge of La Sal Mountains, where we enjoy panoramic views. After riding along the ledge, we descend through sand dunes into the foot of the Marte Valley before heading back to *explora*.

**Advanced**

**H8 Guatin**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 0  
**Type:** Full day  
**Duration:** 5h  
**Distance:** 26 km / 16,3 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 3.150 m.a.s.l / 10.334 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** From *explora*, we head toward Vilama, riding through farms and settlements once populated by the ancient Atacama people. The ride continues through old cattle roads, watercourses and several ravines. Finally, we head for the Gatchi village, passing through volcanic rock formations.

**H9 Valle de la Luna**  
**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 0  
**Type:** Full day  
**Duration:** 6h  
**Distance:** 35 km / 22 mi  
**Max. Altitude:** 2.550 m.a.s.l / 8.336 f.a.s.l  
**Description:** Departure from *explora* horse stables toward La Sal Mountains, crossing the Chula sand dunes. We trot and gallop our horses until we reach La Luna Valley. During this horseback ride we go through pristine and solitary landscapes, experiencing the desert's emptiness. For riders used to gallop and trot for long spans.





Experts

**H10 Río Salado**

**Nights of acclimatization**

**needed:** 1

**Type:** Full day

**Duration:** 7h

**Distance:** 35 km / 22 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 2.800 m.a.s.l / 9.186 f.a.s.l

**Description:** We ride along the Catarpe Valley following the course of a river that flows toward San Pedro de Atacama. We go up the ravine, passing by Chuschul, a highly regarded archeological site. We have lunch by the Salado River. During this exploration, we also see petroglyphs. After lunch, we ride down into the Salado River and follow its course until we get to its confluence with the Grande River. Then, we head toward the San Pedro River, and return to *explora* through the Catarpe valley.

**H11 San Pedro- Matancilla**

**Nights of acclimatization**

**needed:** 0

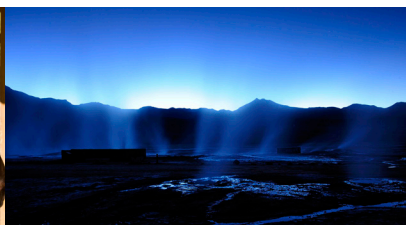
**Type:** Full day

**Duration:** 7h

**Distance:** 35 km / 22 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 3,100 m.a.s.l / 10.170 f.a.s.l

**Description:** We ride across La Sal Mountains toward San Bartolo. Entering the ravines, we find petroglyphs and an ancient mining settlement. From the ravine, we take an upward road toward the ledges of the Domeyko Mountains until we reach Hierbas Buenas, an area famous for its cave art. Return to *explora* by van.





## HIGH MOUNTAIN ASCENT

These explorations can be undertaken after completing several acclimatizations, including a complete daytime exploration above 4.000 m.a.s.l. (13.123 f.a.s.l.) and a three night-stay at *explora*. Travelers interested in high mountain ascents should discuss its details with their guides upon arrival. The following explorations are very demanding, so they can only be pursued by travelers in good physical condition who respond properly to the acclimatization process. Travelers who do not react well to altitude or who have heart issues cannot join these explorations. In some areas the roads will be clearly marked, while in others the terrain will be unstable and present steep slopes. There is always a chance that we find ice, snow, and drastic temperature changes. Nevertheless, this is one of the few sites in the world where travelers can reach heights of over 5.000 m.a.s.l. (16.404 f.a.s.l.). It's a truly unforgettable experience.

### Climate:

Weather-wise, the best time of the year to attempt these climbs is April through mid December, although temperatures can be extremely low, reaching up to -25°C (-13°F), particularly during the months of June through August. From mid-December to the end of March, the summer months in the Southern hemisphere, takes place a weather phenomenon called "invierno altiplánico" ("high plateau winter"). The weather becomes unstable and strong thunderstorms can suddenly fall over the mountains, erasing roads and rendering them inaccessible.

### Equipment

All travelers should bring their own mountain clothes. Please check *explora's* website for clothing tips.

## Moderate

### HM1 Cerro Toco

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 3

**Type:** Half day

**Duration:** 3h 30 min

**Distance:** 4 km / 2,5 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 5.604 m.a.s.l / 18.385 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by van from *explora*, we head east until we reach Los Andes Mountains. The ascent begins in an old sulphur plant. We climb through a sharp and steep trail for two hours. Toco Hill is an ideal introduction to high mountain climbing. Its summit offers a view of Chile, Bolivia, Argentina, and surrounding volcanoes.

### HM2 Jurinquinca

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 3

**Type:** Full day

**Duration:** 3h

**Distance:** 4 km / 2,5 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 4.961 m.a.s.l / 16.276 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by van from the hotel to the foot of Jurinquinca Hill, located north of the San Pedro de Atacama oasis. The ascent begins at 4.500 m.a.s.l. (14.763 f.a.s.l.) through a pathless route. From the summit, we see the Andes Mountains, with views of Licancabur and Colorado, as well as parts of the Atacama salt mine.

### HM3 Volcán Saciél

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 3

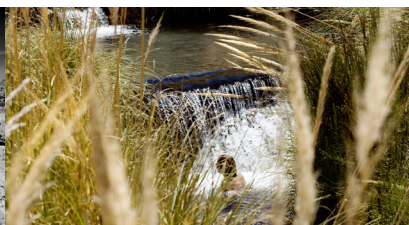
**Type:** Full day

**Duration:** 4h

**Distance:** 3 km / 1,8 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 5.661 m.a.s.l / 18.615 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by van from *explora* (2 hours) until we reach a sulphur mine located between Bolivia and Chile on the ridge of the Sairecabur volcano (5.300 m.a.s.l. / 17.400 p.s.n.m.). The ascent begins in a steep rocky path. After two hours of trekking, we arrive at the edge of the Saciél volcano crater. From the summit we have a view of the crater's interiors. The descending route is selected according to wind conditions.



Advanced

**HM4 Volcán Corona**

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 4

**Type:** Full day

**Duration:** 8h

**Distance:** 4 km / 2,5 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 5.291 m.a.s.l / 17.358 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by van from *explora* toward the Talabre village, southeast from the San Pedro oasis. The ascent begins with a hike through volcanic rocks and boulders. Its length depends on snow conditions. The summit offers views of numerous volcanoes in the Andes Mountains, including the Lascar volcano with its characteristic vent. The descent route goes through volcanic rocks for 2-3 hours. Lunch is served in the highlands.

Experts

**HM5 Volcán Sairecabur**

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 4

**Type:** Full day

**Duration:** 5h

**Distance:** 5 km / 3,1 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 5.996 m.a.s.l / 19.671 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departing by van from *explora*, we head north toward Saciél, an old sulphur mine. From there we continue by car until we reach the Sairecabur boiler, part of the volcanic complex. The ascent begins among loose rocks, stones, and boulders. We go through an abandoned sulphur mine before reaching a final steep climb. The summit is Sairecabur's highest dome.

**HM6 Volcán Colorado**

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 4

**Type:** Full day

**Duration:** 10h

**Distance:** 6 km / 3,6 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 5.748 m.a.s.l / 18.858 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departing by van from *explora* we head north toward the foot of the Colorado volcano. We start climbing gradually over a slope that becomes steeper as we go forward. We pass through huge rocks and loose stones to continue climbing until we reach the summit, which offers panoramic views of the Atacama salt flat basin and the highlands. The descending route toward the base goes through barely marked paths and requires great care. Return to *explora* by van.



EXPEDITION

**E1 Volcán Licancabur**

**Nights of acclimatization needed:** 6

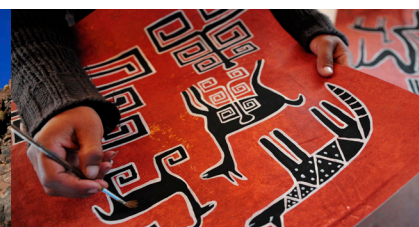
(5 nights *explora*, 6 night Bolivia, 7 day climbing, 7 night *explora*)

**Distance:** 6 km / 3,6 mi

**Max. Altitude:** 5.916 m.a.s.l / 19.409 f.a.s.l

**Description:** After completing several explorations at over 4.000 m.a.s.l. (13.123 f.a.s.l.), gradually acclimatizing our body, on the sixth day we depart by van from *explora* toward a remote campsite in Bolivia. Once settled, we go on a hike in the area of Laguna Verde and Laguna Blanca, from where we enjoy a good view of the Licancabur volcano. The following day, we begin our hike before sunrise. The trail is very well marked and we light it using headlights. Mid-way, we watch the sunrise over Laguna Verde and Laguna Blanca. After hiking for several hours, we reach the summit, from where we have a view of the world's highest crater and lagoon. The descending route can be challenging due to the steep slopes and unstable ground. On our way back, we pass by ancient Inca ruins.

*\*This exploration requires a 60-day confirmation prior to arrival at *explora*. Check visa requirements to enter Bolivia.*







## OVERLAND

We combine transportation by van and hikes for an in-depth exploration of the desert and its surroundings. In order to really get to know the area, we recommend getting off the van and walking.

### Easy

#### O1 Cuenca del Salar Nights of acclimatization needed: 0

**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 4h  
**Max. Altitude:** 2.450 m.a.s.l / 8.038 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by van from explora (35 min) toward the south to visit the village of Toconao. In this oasis, surrounded by vegetable gardens, we take a light 45-minute hike. From here, we continue toward Los Flamencos National Reserve until we reach the surroundings of the Chaxa lagoon, located in the Atacama salt flat. This spot is ideal for birdwatching. Here, we watch the sunset and then return to the hotel.

#### O2 Quebradas Nights of acclimatization needed: 1

**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 4h  
**Max. Altitude:** 3.200 m.a.s.l / 10.498 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departing from explora, on the road to Calama, we take a detour to visit the Yervas Buenas archaeological site. Here, we have a chance to see different styles of petroglyphs left by caravans that used this site as a resting spot. We continue toward the small village of Río Grande, one of the most beautiful villages in Atacama, where we stroll through its picturesque streets. Return to the hotel by van.

#### O3 Cordillera de la Sal Nights of acclimatization needed: 0

**Type:** Half day  
**Duration:** 3h 30min  
**Max. Altitude:** 2.550 m.a.s.l / 8.366 f.a.s.l

**Description:** Departure by van toward La Sal Mountains, where we can appreciate landscapes typical of the desert, with reddish clay plains, sand dunes and various sedimentary formations. We reach the highest peak in this mountain range from where we have a view of The Mountains. We take a 30-minute hike through the south of La Sal Mountains, one of its least explored areas.

#### O4 Altiplano Nights of acclimatization needed: 3

**Type:** Full day  
**Duration:** 7h  
**Max. Altitude:** 4.690 m.a.s.l / 15.387 f.a.s.l

**Description:** We depart by van toward the Argentinean border to appreciate multicolored landscapes and salt flats in the Andean Highlands. We explore different ecological layers, having the opportunity of seeing diverse flora and fauna, which has evolved to survive extreme conditions. Once we reach the summit, we get off the van to be in direct contact with nature and experience walking at over 4.000 m.a.s.l. (13.123 f.a.s.l.).

