



Excursions

tierra atacama



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THE SPIRIT OF THE ALTIPLANO

When you arrive at Tierra Atacama, our team will create a personalized excursion plan for you. Our expert guides take into consideration your personal interests and physical activity level so that you can explore the driest desert in the world in your own way.

Activities are divided into five levels of difficulty:

Easy Appropriate for all ages and abilities.

Medium - Easy Requires a basic level of physical fitness.

Medium Requires some degree of physical fitness and experience

Medium - Difficult Requires a good level of physical fitness and experience.

Difficult Requires a high degree of physical fitness, experience and ability

During your stay, the all-inclusive program allows you to choose two half-day excursions or one full-day excursion per day, except on the day of your departure.

• **Half-day:** These activities take place in the morning and/or the afternoon, lunch is served at the hotel.

• **Full day:** These excursions begin in the morning and include lunch away from the hotel. This may be in the form of a box lunch, a buffet table or lunch at a restaurant, depending on the excursion. Return to the hotel is usually after 6:00 pm.

If you would like to make the most of Uma Spa during your stay, once you arrive at the hotel, you can check excursion arrival times with your guide and book your treatment.

** We recommend that children under 10, pregnant women and people with blood pressure problems or other health conditions avoid tours above 4,000 m above sea level.*

*** All of our excursions are subject to weather conditions, availability and the entrance policies established by the indigenous communities in charge of the protected areas.*

**** All excursions are subject to availability, depending on local regulations regarding sanitary conditions due to the pandemic.*

WALKS & HIKES ▶

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- 2. Quebrada del Diablo / Vilama ▶
- 3. Guatin / Gatchi ▶
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- 21. The Atacama on Horseback ▶



1. Cornisas

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half Day

🕒 Transfer: 20 min.
Hike: 1,5-2,5 hrs.
Altitude: 2,600 m.a.s.l.

We will leave by vehicle from the hotel, taking the road toward Calama. After about 15 minutes, we will arrive at the Cornisas lookout point which offers an amazing view of the Valle de Marte in all its splendor. From there we will view the many area volcanoes. All of our activity will occur at an altitude of approximately 2,600 meters. We will walk about 3 kilometers along the cornice while appreciating the clay formations at our feet. Then we will descend the dunes of Valle de Marte across from an enigmatic landscape that invites contemplation.

This excursion is appropriate for anyone, especially families with children, for whom a slightly shorter version can be provided.

**Not recommended for people who suffer from vertigo or balance problems.*

2. Quebrada del Diablo / Vilama

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half Day

🕒 Transfer: 20 min.
Hike: 1,5-2 hrs.
Altitude: 2,500 m.a.s.l.

We will take a vehicle to the Quebrada del Diablo located in the Cordillera de la Sal (Salt Mountain Range) and then walk on flat terrain through a dry river bed with its labyrinth walls. Then we will begin a gradual ascent that leads to a view of all the surrounding volcanoes. Continuing by the old caravan route, we will find some petroglyphs that are evidence of the commercial activities of the area. Our hike ends with a view of the historic fort known as "Vilama." We will then return by vehicle to the hotel.

3. Guatin / Gatchi

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half Day

🕒 Transfer: 30 min.
Hike: 1.5-2.5 hrs.
Altitude: 3,000 m.a.s.l.

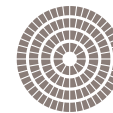
By vehicle, we will travel northeast from the hotel toward the Valle de Guatin (Valley of Guatin). First, we will walk through an impressive forest of cardones (giant cacti) until we reach the place where a warm river, the Puritama, meets a cold river, the Purifica. These two rivers give birth to a new waterway, the Guatin Valley. We will descend via a rocky path, cross the river and see small waterfalls while making our way through a variety of vegetation.

4. Quezar Hike

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half Day

🕒 Transfer: 35 min.
Hike: 2 hrs.
Altitude: 3,500 m.a.s.l.

We'll walk along the river through the interior of the Quebrada de Guatin, its black rock-laced soil a sign of the high volcanic activity that occurred here many years ago. We'll cross the hundreds of years-old cactus forests, where we'll observe three species of cactus (cardón, quismo, and cume). We'll reach the shores of the Puritama river, a passage in the middle of the desert where a diverse range of flora and fauna thrive. During this excursion we'll dodge rough waters, tricky rock formations and "fox tails", a native plant of this zone, while staying alert to spot birds and vizcachas. The sound of the water will accompany us during the walk, where we'll also see ancient corrals that the Atacameñan people used to herd their animals. We'll return to the hotel by van.



5. Kari

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half Day

🕒 Transfer: 40 min.
Hike: 1,5-2 hrs.
Altitude: 2,500 m.a.s.l

We depart from the hotel by car to the Mirador de Kari, located at 2,550 m.a.s.l. Known as Coyote Rock, this viewpoint is one of the most famous lookouts of San Pedro de Atacama, with a great panoramic view of the Cordillera de la Sal, where water, wind and temperature combined their forces to produce this amazing ravine. From here we will go down a large dune until we reach the canyon, where we will cross dry rivers along naturally made salt trails that contrast with the intense color of the clay walls. With limited access and labyrinthine routes, we will visit caves and formations that awaken the imagination to finally reach the Valley of the Moon. We will return by vehicle to the hotel.

6. Purilaktis

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Full Day

🕒 Transfer: 1 hr.
Hike: 2,5-3,5 hrs.
Altitude: 3,400 m.a.s.l.

We will begin our journey on the highway heading to Calama and, turn off towards the Domeyko Mountain Range. We will start our hike near the Salado River (3,000 meters/9,842 feet), the Matancilla Valley and the petroglyphs of Hierbas Buenas. We will begin by traversing a small, serpentine ravine that later opens up into large rock formations with petroglyphs. Following the dry riverbeds surrounded by mountains, we will stop at several lookouts to see petroglyphs and take in the traditional local settlements. The tour will end with lunch in the famous Rainbow Valley amidst the colorful rock formations that give it its name, and then we will head back to the hotel.

7. Machuca / Río Grande

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Full Day

🕒 Transfer: 1 hr.
Hike: 4-5 hrs.
Altitude: 4,000 m.a.s.l.

This hike begins in the village of Machuca at 4,000 meters above sea level, and descends along the Peñaliri River. We will be able to observe lamas as well as some birds which are native to the altiplano. We will stop to have lunch at the abandoned farmhouse of Peñaliri before continuing our walk along the ravine. We will see a variety of cacti as we make our way towards the meeting point at the final stretch of the Salt Mountain range. Our walk concludes in Río Grande, a village where we can observe some of their native crops such as garlic, Andean corn, and other vegetables.





SCENIC VOYAGES



8. Moon Valley

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half Day

- 🕒 Transfer: 20 min.
- 🚶 Hike: 40 min.
- 📏 Altitude: 2,500 m.a.s.l.

Just to the northeast of San Pedro de Atacama lies the Salt Mountain Range and the surreal landscape of the Valle de la Luna (Moon Valley) at 2,500 meters/ 8,200 feet. These strange and beautiful rock formations are the result of water and wind erosion as well as extreme desert temperatures. They bring us into close contact with the Atacama Desert's otherworldly dimension. Since most people visit this area in the afternoon, we set out in the morning, which allows us to have the beauty and silence of the desert almost to ourselves.

9. Salar de Atacama (Chaxa Lagoon)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half Day

- 🕒 Transfer: Toconao: 45 min.
- 📏 Salar: 1.30 hrs.
- 🚶 Hike: 40 min.
- 📏 Altitude: 2,300 m.a.s.l

We will head south to the village of Toconao where the local artisans, historic church, and town square are the main attractions. Our journey will continue to the National Flamingo Reserve, located in the Salar de Atacama (Atacama Salt Flat). Here we will walk the trails, see of flamingo and other local birds and enjoy the spectacular, colorful sunsets offered reflected in the water.

10. High Plains Lagoons

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Full Day

- 🕒 Transfer: 2-2.5 hrs.
- 🚶 Hike: 30 -40 min.
- 📏 Altitude: 4,200 m.a.s.l.

At more than 4,000 meters (13,000 feet) above sea level, we will arrive at the remote Aguas Calientes and Tuyajto lagoons and their awesome surroundings, making this excursion one of tranquility and peace amidst the amazing colors and contrasts of the salt flats.

We will also visit the area of Piedras Rojas (Red Rocks) with its impressive, inspiring geological formations. Weather permitting, we will lunch at Tuyajto and enjoy the colors of the high plains in their maximum expression.

*** This excursion is not for children under 10 years of age due to the altitude.**

11. Tatio Geysers (with acclimatization)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Full Day

- 🕒 Transfer: 1-1,5 hrs.
- 🚶 Hike: 30-40 min.
- 📏 Altitude: 4,300 m.a.s.l.

An early morning departure will take us to the Tatio Geysers, located at 4,300 meters (14,200 feet) above sea level. This geothermal field includes more than 80 active geysers where columns of water vapor reach over 12 meters in height from several of the pools of boiling water. Breakfast will be served as dawn breaks. Our return trip offers the opportunity to spot local species: vicuñas, foxes, vizcachas and Andean ostrich. We will stop in the picturesque village of Machuca before returning to the hotel at noon.

*** This excursion is not for children under 10 years of age due to the altitude.**

The perfect balance between an excursion by van and shorter easy walks. Ideal for those who enjoy photography and bird watching.



12. Petroglyphs/ Rainbow Valley

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half Day

🕒 Transfer: 1.20 hrs.
Hike: 20-40 min.
Altitude: 3,400 m.a.s.l.

On this excursion we will head west on the highway toward Calama and the town of Matancilla. Here we will find ourselves in Rainbow Valley, a part of the Domeyko Mountains, to enjoy its many-colored rocks resulting from minerals experiencing different erosion and environmental processes. After this no longer than 30 minute scenic hike we will ride to the town of Hierbas Buenas and visit a natural shelter made of compacted volcanic ash once used by farmers travelling in caravans. Here we will see many petroglyphs of archaeological and historic significance. We will return to the hotel by vehicle.

13. Astronomy

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half Day

🕒 Transfer: 10 min.
Observation: 2 hrs.
Altitude: 2,400 m.a.s.l.

César Anza, our guide, will teach us about the worldview and the Andean cosmic view of constellations. We will gaze at the universe with the naked eye and then through the largest public telescope in the area. Depending on the phase of the moon and the time of year, we might be able to see Saturn's rings, craters on the moon, nebulas and/or supernovas.

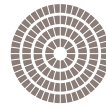
**** This excursion is not available when the moon is full.***

14. Full Moon

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half Day

🕒 Transfer: 20 min.
Hike: 40 min.
Altitude: 2,500 m.a.s.l.

After dinner we will leave the hotel in a van and travel away from the town to an area without light pollution. There we will begin a leisurely hike, stopping to contemplate the silhouettes and shadows left by the light of the moon. This scenic hike offers a unique way to view the singular desert geography. After walking for about an hour, we will share a campfire and snack and enjoy the peace of the high plains in the moonlight. This hike is available from one day before the full moon through one day after.



15. Devil's Canyon

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half Day

🕒 Cycling: 2-3 hrs.
Altitude: 2,500 m.a.s.l.

We will leave from the hotel on bicycles and head north from San Pedro following the course of its namesake's river to 2,400 meters (7,900 feet) above sea level. The landscape varies between the Cordillera de la Sal (Salt Mountain Range) and its surrounding oasis. After crossing the river, we will arrive at Devil's Canyon and bask in the singular beauty of this winding dry riverbed and its tall clay walls. Continuing to ascend along this sandy path, we will come to the labyrinth's end where the barren landscape contrasts with the green oasis of the ever expanding Catarpe plantations. The return journey follows the course of San Pedro River.

16. Windy Overlook & Death Valley

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half Day

🕒 Cycling: 3 hrs.
Altitude: 2,700 m.a.s.l.

We will leave the hotel heading northeast by highway through the Salt Mountain Range, taking in an amazing view of the Andes volcanoes. We will remain at high-altitude and see the Death Valley formations from above then descend by old roads to the San Pedro oasis. This excursion makes steep ascents and descents and is a great route for mountain bike enthusiasts.

17. Cejar Lagoon

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half Day

🕒 Transfer: 35 min.
Cycling 2 hrs.
Altitude: 2,400 m.a.s.l.

This is a morning excursion to make the most of the temperature at this time of day. Depart the hotel heading south by bike towards the edge of the Atacama Salt Flat. The terrain is mainly flat and slightly uneven in places. On arrival at the Cejar lagoon, the view of the thick salt crust which has formed around the water hole is amazing. The salt concentration is incredibly high here and one floats in the spectacularly clear waters. Following a swim and a rest, we return to the hotel by vehicle.

18. Cornisas

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half Day

🕒 Hotel - tunnel : 10k
Tunnel - dunes: 5k
Dunes - hotel: 8k
Altitude: 2,700 m.a.s.l.

We depart from the hotel on bikes at an altitude of 2,400 meters above sea level, heading towards the Catarpe Valley over terrain that can be both sandy and rocky. We'll take a tough ascent up to find an ancient tunnel, which will allow us to cross through the Cordillera de la Sal, to then mount ourselves on the ledge of the Valle de la Muerte, at 2,735 meters above sea level. We'll ride across the length of the cliff to arrive at the valley, with impressive sand dunes and a challenging terrain, where we'll cross gravel and sand-covered hills made for mountain biking. At the end of the tour we'll have covered 23 kilometers in total, with an elevation of approximately 450 meters.



19. Toco

■■■■■ Full Day

🕒 Transfer: 1-1.5 hrs.
Hike: 2-4 hrs.
Altitude: 5,600 m.a.s.l.

We will begin this excursion at 2,400 meters (7,900 feet) and, after an hour and a half by van, arrive to an altitude of 5,000 meters (16,400 feet). We will then begin our ascent to the summit on foot (5,600 meters/18,700 feet), which offers beautiful views of Bolivia including the Blanca Lagoon to the east and the Salar de Atacama to the west. We will safely and gradually descend via the same route and once at the van, return to the hotel. ***This excursion requires acclimatization and experience with hiking.***

20. Láscar

■■■■■ Full Day

🕒 Transfer: 1,5-2 hrs.
Hike: 3-5 hrs.
Altitude: 5,592 m.a.s.l.

We will leave the hotel, located at 2,400 meters (7,900 feet) above sea level to ride more than 100 km (62 miles) south, passing by the Laguna Lejía. We will arrive to an altitude of 4,800 meters (16,000 feet) above sea level where we will start our challenge up the southeast side of the volcano to the base of the Láscar Crater at 5,592 meters (18,300 feet) above sea level. This volcano has experienced about 30 eruptions since the nineteenth century, making it the most active volcano in northern Chile. The ascent is three kilometers long with a 700 meter rise in altitude along compact soil with no sediment.

Once there, we will see the active fumaroles and multiple craters in addition to enjoying a panoramic view of the entire Atacama Salt Flat and Laguna Lejía.

We will then begin a safe and slow descent along the same route to the vehicle which will take us back to the hotel. This more than four-hour roundtrip hike is a full-day excursion and offers the challenge of climbing a high mountain in a fascinating environment surrounded by impressive peaks and diverse bird species.

This excursion requires acclimatization and previous hiking experience.

* Climbing hills and volcanoes in the Atacama is considered to be highly challenging. While ascents can never be guaranteed, it is absolutely imperative that a guest spend a minimum of five nights in order to acclimatize properly, both to the altitude and extreme desert conditions, before attempting an ascent. Climbers must be of legal age. Based on the physical conditions of each guest, and for their own security, we reserve the right to prohibit high-altitude excursions.

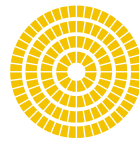


21. The Atacama on Horseback

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half Day / Full Day

🕒 Ride: between 2-5 hrs. (depending on experience and wishes of the participants)
Altitude: 2,400 m.a.s.l.

We have a selection of rides available with horses from the Atacama. Our saddles are Chilean (Western) style. As part of our sustainable practices, we work with small local companies. The horses are mounted in the hotel grounds and a local guide leads the rides which range from beginner level to expert. Helmets and chaps are provided by the hotel.



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