

ATACAMA Adventure

5 days through the world's driest desert - Chile

On this tour you will discover the world's driest desert with all its splendid beauty. You will see the most colorful sunsets from the valley 'Valle de la Luna' and from the salt lake 'Salar de Atacama'. After a day's trek through desert lands and bizarre canyons you refresh and relax in turquoise lagoons. The Tatio geysers' roaring vapor-columns and gushing waters will give you a breathtaking performance of nature wonders. The oasis San Pedro de Atacama with its characteristic adobe-houses will host you and be the starting point for your daily tours.

Trip Highlights:

- Explore the **desert oasis & hippie village San Pedro de Atacama**
 - Discover the world's driest desert and admire the **roaring Tatio Geysers**
 - Enjoy the **colorful sunsets** at the Valle de la Luna
 - Visit the **Salt Lake Salar de Atacama** & drive through the Salt Flats Route
 - Observe **local wildlife**: flamingos, vicuñas and vizcachas
- Insider Tip
- Try the **llama anticuchos** (meat skewers) or empanadas (filled dumplings)

Trip Info:

Length of the journey: 5 days
Season: from January to December
Start/End of journey: from / to Calama
Group Size: min. 1 person
Departures: individual on request (excursions in international mixed groups)

What's included:

- Accommodation: 4 nights in a hotel in double room with private bathroom (HOTEL LA CASA DE DON TOMAS or similar)
- Meals: 4 x breakfast, 1 x box lunch
- Local bilingual english/spanish speaking guide (alternating)
- All transfers and excursions in international mixed groups as per detailed itinerary
- Shared transfer to and from Airport Calama
- Fees: Entry fee to Valle de la Luna (Moon Valley, day 1)

What's excluded:

- Entry fees/admission to all National Parks as well as to the Lagoons (appr. USD 40 p.p.)
- Not appointed meals and beverages
- Optional trips
- Tips/gratuity, local payments
- International and domestic airfare and airport charges
- Travel insurance is not included in this tour. Travel insurance is mandatory and must be purchased prior to the start of the trip.

Itinerary:

Important note: The itinerary described in the program is a planned itinerary or a guide. Changes or deviations of individual travel services from the contractually agreed content of the travel contract, which become necessary after conclusion of the contract and which were not brought about by MOSER Active against good faith, are permitted, provided that these are not significant and do not affect the overall design of the booked trip. MOSER Active will endeavor to offer an equivalent replacement. Additional costs that may arise due to changes to the tour itinerary are to be borne by the participant on site and will not be reimbursed by MOSER Active.

Day 1: San Pedro de Atacama – Valle de la Luna (Moon Valley)

After your arrival at the airport in Calama we will directly take you to San Pedro de Atacama (shared transfer, without a guide; driving time: approx. one and a half to two hours). On an elevation of 2,400m (7,874 ft), the little town that has never lost a certain hippie-flair welcomes you with a variety of restaurants and bars.

In the afternoon, you will take short hikes into the bizarre desert world, visiting its famous rock formations: the Tres Marías, the Cañón and the Amphitheater. Together, you will wait for the sun to set in Valle de la Luna (Moon

Valley). The sunsets play of colors is absolutely breathtaking. Excursion of approx. 4.5 hours (pick up from the hotel around 3:00 p.m. / return around 7:30 p.m.).

Overnight: Hotel in double room with private bathroom (HOTEL LA CASA DE DON TOMAS or similar). (-/-/-)

Day 2: Waterfalls & Cactus Trek – Hidden lagoons of Baltinache

In the morning, your tour will lead you through the spectacularly rocky Guatin-Canyon (Quebrada de Guatin, altitude between 2,500 and 3,000 meters). You start an hour uphill trek, walking through a canyon with giant cactuses. Here you can marvel at the region's typical flora. Although the Atacama desert is extremely droughty, it brings out all sorts of cactuses among which you will certainly find the eye-catching Cola de Zorro. In addition, you will have time to dip into the lagoon formed by the waterfalls, so you can relax and refresh from the walk. Excursion of approx. 5 hours (pick up from the hotel around 8:00 a.m. / return around 1:00 p.m.).

In the afternoon, you will start leaving San Pedro de Atacama towards the southeast to reach the entry of the Baltinache hidden lagoons. You will follow the trail that will take you to the seven lagoons which form this wonderful landscape. The last one can be used for bathing while admiring the color variation of the desert landscape. Due to the amount of salt that the lagoon contains, you will experience the flotation effect like in the Dead Sea. On the way back, you will see the sunset in the desert, before arriving to San Pedro downtown. Excursion of approx. 5.5 - 6 hours (pick up from the hotel around 2:00 p.m. / return around 7:45 p.m.). Overnight stay in the same hotel. Meals included: breakfast.

Day 3: Ruta de los Salares – Tour through the Salt Flats Route

This tour will take you to the east of San Pedro de Atacama, towards the Andes Mountain Range. Your first stops will be the Licancabur Volcano lookout and the wetland of the Quepiaco River, where you will admire the contrast between vegetation and mountain range. After that, you will go to visit the monjes de la Pacana (Pacana Monks), big stone pillars that rise up lonely in the middle of the desert. Afterwards, you will visit the Quisquiro Salt Flat, which is at more than 4,000 m (13,123 ft.) of altitude. Here you will have time to rest and enjoy the surroundings. Finally, on your way back to San Pedro de Atacama, you will pass by the Aguas Calientes Salt Flat, known for its coloured waters. Excursion of approx. 6.5 hours (pick up from the hotel house around 8:00 a.m. / return around 2:30 p.m.). Overnight stay in the same hotel. Meals included: breakfast, box lunch.

Please note: in order to guarantee this trip they need a minimum group size of 8 people (international mixed group).

Day 4: Tatío Geysers – Salt Lake Salar de Atacama: „Cejar“ and „Piedra“ Lagoons – „Ojos del Salar“

You will leave San Pedro de Atacama early in the morning and set off towards the Altiplano, going up the hills and mountains of the Andes. You will arrive at El Tatío Geysers after an hour and a half to find a one-of-a-kind natural sight in the world, with 80 steaming geysers at an altitude of 4,200 – 4,320 meters (13,780 ft.). With this natural scenery, you will enjoy a breakfast and then explore the geothermal camp. The geysers roaring vapor-columns spread like ghostly wafts of mist over the thermal springs. On the way back to San Pedro de Atacama, you will stop at the Putana River to observe the native flora and fauna of the area. Excursion of approx. 7 - 7.5 hours (pick up from the hotel around 4:30 a.m. / return around 12:00 a.m.).

An excursion in the afternoon takes you to the Salar de Atacama (salt lake), Chile's largest salt flat, to the famous turquoise colored Cejar Lagoon and Piedra Lagoon with their white salty rims. In the Piedra Lagoon, you will enjoy swimming with a flotation effect similar to the one in the Dead Sea. Before you head back to San Pedro you will visit "Ojos del Salar" - two deep freshwater wells in the middle of the desert - and Laguna Tebinquinche. Meanwhile, the evening sun will have dipped the surrounding volcanoes into a bath of purple light. Excursion of approx. 5 hours (pick up from the hotel around 2:00 p.m. / return around 7:30 p.m.). Overnight stay in the same hotel. Meals included: breakfast.

Day 5: Transfer to Airport Calama

Transfer to the airport in Calama (shared transfer, without a guide; driving time: approx. one and a half to two hours). Meals included: breakfast.

Difficulty:

Day tours that will challenge you moderately. Differences in elevation (day tours at altitudes of 2,400 to 4,300 meters) but also in temperature will be the most challenging part. Higher elevations should not create problems for you. All excursions take place in international mixed groups with alternating English-speaking tour guides.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.