

CHILE - ESSENCE OF CHILE



TRIP CODE

CLTSCHH

DURATION

12 Days

LOCATIONS

Chile, Patagonia



INTRODUCTION

Immerse yourself in the stunning landscapes and spectacular scenery of Chile, from wild, rugged and breathtakingly beautiful Torres del Paine with its towering granite peaks, lakes and fjords to the arid, sun-baked Atacama Desert with its salt flats, geysers, fascinating rock formations and incredible night skies. Interspersed amongst this awe-inspiring scenery, you will also find vineyards producing world-class wines, quaint Andean villages and picturesque UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Add to this a range of luxurious hotels and lodges that await you at the end of each day, and you have the makings of an incredible honeymoon.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival transfer in Santiago

On arrival at Santiago Airport, please make your way through Customs and Immigration and only exit from the green doors marked 'Meeting Point'. Our representative will be holding a sign with your name on it and waiting for you outside this exit. Please only make contact with our representative. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay.



NO IMAGE
AVAILABLE

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DAY 2: Santiago Cultural City Tour

We begin with a visit to the Pre-Columbian Art museum where we admire the collection of more than 3,000 pre-Columbian pieces including artefacts from Mexico, Central America, and the Amazon basin. From here we head to the San Francisco Convent and Museum that houses an extensive collection of colonial and religious art. We finish the tour with a visit to the Casa Moneda. Includes museum entrance fees.



DAY 3: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight. This service includes a Spanish speaking driver only.



DAY 3: Arrival in Punta Arenas & Torres del Paine

On arrival into Punta Arenas airport, you will be met and transferred to Tierra Patagonia Hotel, located inside Torres del Paine National Park. The minibus journey is just under 5 hours and takes you from Punta Arenas to Llanuras de Diana, taking in the vast Patagonia landscape along 200 kilometres (124 miles) of dirt road. From there, the 190 kilometres (118 miles) to Torres del Paine National Park is mainly along gravel roads. On arrival, settle into the comfortable Tierra Patagonia Lodge on the beautiful shores of Lago Pehoe and take in the spectacular Paine Mountains. In the evening you will be briefed on the excursion options for next day. Torres del Paine is one of the most beautiful national parks in the world, famous for its spectacular scenery, fauna and adventure activities. Declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1978, Torres del Paine is considered to be one of the most magnificent, untouched places on Earth.



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DAY 4: Activities in Torres del Paine National Park

For the following days you may choose from a variety of full-day & half-day excursions to enjoy the incredible Patagonian scenery and fascinating wildlife of Torres del Paine National Park. The Tierra Patagonia excursions will take guests to see and experience the great beauty and fascinating life of Chilean Patagonia and to explore the untamed wilderness of Torres del Paine with its snow-capped peaks, glaciers, icebergs, fjords, lakes and windswept pampas. With the help of our expert and knowledgeable guides each guest will find the right outing depending on their interests and energy levels. There are walks, hikes, climbs, horse-rides, and tours by van or vehicle to choose from, with difficulty levels ranging from leisurely to very difficult. There are half-day and full-day options, and excursions are run with a maximum of 8 people per guide, with all the necessary equipment.



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DAY 5: Activities in Torres del Paine National Park

For the following days you may choose from a variety of full-day & half-day excursions to enjoy the incredible Patagonian scenery and fascinating wildlife of Torres del Paine National Park. The Tierra Patagonia excursions will take guests to see and experience the great beauty and fascinating life of Chilean Patagonia and to explore the untamed wilderness of Torres del Paine with its snow-capped peaks, glaciers, icebergs, fjords, lakes and windswept pampas. With the help of our expert and knowledgeable guides each guest will find the right outing depending on their interests and energy levels. There are walks, hikes, climbs, horse-rides, and tours by van or vehicle to choose from, with difficulty levels ranging from leisurely to very difficult. There are half-day and full-day options, and excursions are run with a maximum of 8 people per guide, with all the necessary equipment.



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DAY 6: Activities in Torres del Paine National Park

For the following days you may choose from a variety of full-day & half-day excursions to enjoy the incredible Patagonian scenery and fascinating wildlife of Torres del Paine National Park. The Tierra Patagonia excursions will take guests to see and experience the great beauty and fascinating life of Chilean Patagonia and to explore the untamed wilderness of Torres del Paine with its snow-capped peaks, glaciers, icebergs, fjords, lakes and windswept pampas. With the help of our expert and knowledgeable guides each guest will find the right outing depending on their interests and energy levels. There are walks, hikes, climbs, horse-rides, and tours by van or vehicle to choose from, with difficulty levels ranging from leisurely to very difficult. There are half-day and full-day options, and excursions are run with a maximum of 8 people per guide, with all the necessary equipment.



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DAY 7: Depart from Torres del Paine

Today you will take the morning departure transfer from Tierra Patagonia to Punta Arenas (5 hrs) to connect with your onward flight. Trip Extensions to El Calafate or Antarctica can be arranged. *Transfers from or to El Calafate can be arranged for an additional cost (US\$270), please contact us for more details.



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DAY 7: Arrival transfer in Santiago

On arrival at Santiago Airport, please make your way through Customs and Immigration and only exit from the green doors marked 'Meeting Point'. Our representative will be holding a sign with your name on it and waiting for you outside this exit. Please only make contact with our representative. Should you have trouble locating him/her, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details and only speak directly with our office in Santiago who speak good English. Santiago International Airport is undergoing extensive renovations which are due to continue to 2019. There are now two exiting gates and all travellers who have prebooked and prepaid for an arrival transfer, must exit from the green doors marked 'Meeting Point' only. Due to these renovations there have been instances of Taxi Scammers taking advantage of the confusion so please follow these instructions and please note again if you can't locate our representative please call our local office and only speak directly with them. This service includes a Spanish speaking driver only.



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DAY 8: Valparaiso & Casablanca valley

This morning, you will be collected from your hotel and travel west towards the Pacific Ocean. Our first stop will be in the Casablanca Valley, famous for its many wineries and towns full of Chilean traditions. Vines were first planted here in the mid 1980's and the area is known for its cool climate white wines, most notably Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay, as well as Pinot Noir. The region's world class wineries are mostly located along the road and we will visit one of them to enjoy a premium wine tasting before continuing on to Valparaiso. Valparaiso is a historic port and is known as the "Jewel of the Pacific" and the cultural capital of Chile with festivals every year and a number of street artists and musicians. Its charming, picturesque and colourful houses are set on cobblestone alleyways in the hills that surround the city, creating a natural amphitheatre. In the 19th century, Valparaiso saw an influx of European immigrants. The historic quarter of Valparaiso was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2003 based on its unique architecture and urban design. The city's system of funicular lifts was declared one of the world's most endangered historical treasures by the World Monuments Fund in 1996. A short drive along the coast will allow us to have a perfect view of the hills and the city. We walk around the town to discover hidden treasures such as art galleries, small cafes and breweries. Lunch is not included however restaurants will be recommended to you with time allowed for you to enjoy lunch. In the afternoon, return to Santiago and you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a private tour.



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DAY 9: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



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DAY 9: Welcome to Atacama Desert

On arrival in Calama you will be met and transferred to San Pedro de Atacama (1½ hours, shared with other hotel guests). A welcome dinner will be served at the hotel. During the evening, the guides will suggest optional activities available the following days.



DAY 9: Atacama

The small oasis town of San Pedro de Atacama lies on an arid high plateau in the Andes Mountains in the heart of some of northern Chile’s most spectacular scenery. Overlooking the Licancabur Volcano, its dramatic surrounding landscape ranges from desert, salt flats, steaming geysers and hot springs to fascinating rock formations. The church, dating back to 1774 and featuring adobe, cactus wood and leather-bound beams and the Archaeological Museum are both worth a visit.



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DAY 10: Days 2 & 3: Activities in San Pedro de Atacama

Tierra Atacama have a set of activities where you can choose from onsite, allowing you to create your own personalised experience deep in the Atacama. Below are suggested options you may like to choose from through-out your stay. Feel the exhilaration of pedalling through spellbinding landscapes towards the Quebrada del Diablo ‘Devil’s Canyon’, witnessing scenic sights across the Atacama as you go. Having geared up and prepared your bicycles at the hotel, you will start your exploration of the local area, beginning with a ride along the banks of the San Pedro River, at 2,400m (7,900ft) above sea level. Bumble along the dusty pathways, with the beautiful mountains accompanying you along the way, before crossing the cool, gentle waters of the river to reach the other side. The Atacama Desert is known to be one of the best places on earth for stargazing. So, armed with the largest public telescope in the region as well as the help of our expert guides, we’ll enjoy a fascinating evening of astronomy together, something not easily forgotten. Look up to the jet-black canopy above you, studded with glittering stars and their constellations, easily visible to the naked eye thanks to the Atacama’s lack of artificial light and endless expanse of untouched desert. The night sky transforms throughout the year, so depending on the time of your visit, it may be Saturn’s rings, craters on the moon, nebulas and even supernovas on show.



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DAY 11: Atacama Tatio Geysers

Today we visit the Tatio Geysers, located at an altitude of 4,300m (14,190 ft.). The geothermal field has close links to the volcanic activity in the zone and consists of huge steam columns that reach heights of 12m (almost 40 ft.). Breakfast is served as dawn breaks. On the way back to the village, there is the opportunity to spot families of vicuñas and if you are lucky, foxes, vizcachas and Andean ostriches. We stop in the hamlet of Machuca before returning to the hotel.



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DAY 12: Atacama: Departure day

After breakfast, you are transferred to Calama Airport for your flight to Santiago.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Deluxe
Inclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accommodation with breakfast everyday - 4 nights and 5 days all-inclusive program during your stay in Torres del Paine at Tierra Patagonia Lodge* - 3 nights and 4 days all-inclusive program during your stay in San Pedro de Atacama at Tierra Atacama Lodge* *all-inclusive packages includes: Lodging with all inclusive program, American breakfast, lunch and dinner, open Bar - soft drinks, mineral water, juices, house wines, beers and liquors, Two half day excursions or a full day excursion in small groups with others passengers, accompanied by bilingual guides (English Spanish). Free use of the hotel facilities, including swimming pools, saunas, Jacuzzis (massages, spa treatments and therapies are available at an additional cost). - Other tours when stated on the itinerary (Santiago city tour & Casablanca and Valparaiso tours) - Airport transfers - Domestic air tickets
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request

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Notes	<p>Program includes special treats for honeymooners: 1 Night for free at Grand Hyatt Santiago, included on the itinerary. 1 Night for free at Matetic Lodge & Wineries, included on the itinerary. Arrival and departure transportation in Santiago for free. During your stay at Tierra Patagonia: free massage, sparkling wine, luxury romantic bath and surprise gift. During your stay at Tierra Atacama: free massage, private hot tub, sparkling wine and surprise gift.</p> <p>Contact us for more details</p>
	<p>Price Dependent upon Season and availability</p>

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SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you’re visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu’s “Pass it on” programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures’ offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure’s internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.