

## LA PAZ AND ATACAMA DESERT TOUR



The Bolivia to Chile Tour

### 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

Stark contrasts: From the Bolivian Capital to the wonders of the Atacama Desert! Astounding contrasts as you journey from La Paz to the crystalline Chilean coastal Oasis of Arica, then into the beautifully fascinating Atacama Desert. Continue on this tour from our Travels of the Incas or start here on as you introduction to South America!

FROM  
**\$1525**  
per person

#### THIS TOUR INCLUDES:

- All Hotels Accommodations
- All Breakfasts
- 4 Sightseeings
- All Transfers
- 1st class Intercity Coach
- English-speaking Guides
- 24 hour contact while on tour

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Bolivian governmental capital: La Paz
- Beach Oasis Arica
- Amazing Atacama Desert

## ITINERARY



Day 1

### ARRIVE IN LA PAZ

Arrive in La Paz, the highest capital in the world. Spend the night under the gaze of the Illimani Mountain in a hotel in the lower part of the Bolivian capital, where the air is a bit thicker.



## Day 2

### LA PAZ CITY TOUR AND VALLEY OF THE MOON

During today's tour, travel back in time to the foundation of La Paz visiting its historic places and churches, learn about ancient medicine at the Witches Market, and marvel over the rock formations of the Valley of the Moon!

Start off in Plaza Murillo, La Paz's main square, and admire the architecture of its government palace and its cathedral. Then, head to Jaen Street, which successfully keeps much of its colonial charm through its colorful facades, its balconies, and its lamps.

Visit the 'Mercado de Hechicería' or Witches Market, where locals sell herbs, aphrodisiacs, and magic charms following the traditions of their ancestors.

Leave the Bolivian Capital to take in the mesmerizing views of the Valley of the Moon, where the erosion of wind and rain created bizarre moon-like landscapes. Finish off at the ceramic workshop and watch a pottery demonstration.

Return to your hotel in La Paz by the afternoon.



## Day 3

### COACH JOURNEY TO THE SEASIDE OASIS OF ARICA

Leave Bolivia and take a bus drive to Arica, Chile's archeological capital. On route, you will see different Inca fortresses, evidence of the inner wars that took place in the region. This land is also home to an exotic flora and fauna, including towering Candelaria cacti, llamas, vizcachas, pumas, and birds.

Arrive in the river oasis of Arica, an idyllic land formerly belonging to Peru which is a typical beach vacation destination for Bolivians. Its port serves as a trade route for landlocked Bolivia, and the goods are sent via a railway over the Andes that connects it with La Paz.

Check in to your hotel and spend your first night in Chile.



## Day 4

### BEACH DAY IN ARICA & TRANSFER TO CALAMA

What a contrast: The sea, the desert, the Oasis of Arica and the Andes in the background. You can easily explore Arica on your own, visit the Archaeological Museum or hang out on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. On your visit to the city, don't miss the Cathedral of San Marcos and the Customs House, both designed by Eiffel (the designer of the Statue of Liberty's infrastructure, as well as the Eiffel Tower) after a 19th century tidal wave destroyed Arica's churches.

Tonight, a Special Sleeper Bus drives you through the night to Calama, the gateway to the Atacama Desert.



## Day 5

### ATACAMA DESERT ORIENTATION

Transfer to San Pedro de Atacama, where you will be introduced to the many options this Oasis has to offer: There are many excursion possibilities, but you can pack your day with other more active trips; Horse back riding, hikes, trekking, biking, hill climbing, ... But first, after you have refreshed, journey to see the spectacular sunset over the Moon Valley. No weather risks! It almost never rains here in the driest desert on Earth. The Valle de la Luna (Valley of the Moon) is a strange, almost lunar landscape formed by the erosion of salt mountains. Curious sculpted rock formations in the middle of the desert with the Lincancabur Volcano in the background make for a unique experience.

After sunset return to your hotel in San Pedro de Atacama.



## Day 6

### ALTIPLANIC LAGOONS & ATACAMA SALT FLATS

Today, head to the south of San Pedro to visit the Atacama Salt Flat and the Altiplanic Lagoons of Meñiques and Miscanti. Along the way, visit the small agricultural village of Socaire, whose main income comes from the harvest of maize, wheat and potato. When you reach an altitude of 4,600, (13,800ft), face the very scenic blue-black twin lagoons of Meñiques and Miscanti, overlooked by the mighty Meñiques Hill and home to Andean camelids (such as vicuñas and llamas), ducks, and other bird species.

Afterwards, visit the Atacama Salt Flat, or Salar de Atacama, an area rich in minerals where elegant flamingoes. Admire many of these beautiful pink birds in their natural habitat at Chaxa Lagoon, located within the Los Flamingos National Reserve.

Return to San Pedro in the evening.



## Day 7

### VISIT EL TATIO GEYSER

Early in the morning set out for a full-day excursion to witness the power of Mother Nature at El Tatio Geyser. This geyser, located at an altitude of 14,800 ft (4,500m) offers a picture-perfect landscape during the sunset, an image surely to remain in your memory forever. Don't forget to bring swimwear and a towel to bathe in the warm pool!

On our way back to San Pedro it is possible to see the verdant bushes of Yareta shining in the sparse desert. Spend the rest of the afternoon at your leisure, resting at the hotel, going for a light walk. You can also book a tour (not included) to visit the 800 year old pre-Inca fortress Pucará de Quito.



## Day 8

### DEPARTURE FROM CHILE

After breakfast transfer back to Calama and flight to Santiago in order to connect with your flight home, or continue with your South American journey

