

Andes Majesty – Atacama and Bolivia

This 13-day journey takes the intrepid traveller through the dazzling lunar landscapes of the high Andes. Explore this ultimate wilderness in a private 4x4 and admire the glittering salt flats, surreal rock formations, bubbling geysers, garish lakes and snow-capped volcanoes. Follow in the footsteps of Spanish conquistadors via lesser-known routes across the national parks that straddle the Chile-Bolivia border.

ITINERARY PROPOSAL

- Day 1: Sunday 29 May 2016: Atacama Desert
- Day 2: Monday 30 May 2016: Atacama Desert
- Day 3: Tuesday 31 May 2016: Atacama Desert
- Day 4: Wednesday 1 June 2016: Atacama Desert - Bolivian Desert
- Day 5: Thursday 2 June 2016: Bolivian Desert
- Day 6: Friday 3 June 2016: Uyuni Salt Flat
- Day 7: Saturday 4 June 2016: Uyuni Salt Flat
- Day 8: Sunday 5 June 2016: Tahua - Sajama
- Day 9: Monday 6 June 2016: Sajama National Park
- Day 10: Tuesday 7 June 2016: Sajama – Putre
- Day 11: Wednesday 8 June 2016: Putre
- Day 12: Thursday 9 June 2016: Arica
- Day 13: Friday 10 June 2016: Arica-Santiago

Price per person

Tour: £3100

Single Supplement*: £1200

Transatlantic flights: from £1050

Internal flights: from £200

****The single supplement applies if a solo traveller does not share a room.***

ITINERARY IN DETAIL

DAY 1: SUNDAY 29 MAY 2016: ATACAMA DESERT

Transfer to hotel in San Pedro de Atacama

Accommodation	:	Hotel Altiplanico
Meals	:	Breakfast
Activity & services	:	Atacama desert
Altitude	:	2400 m/ 7870 ft

DAY 2: MONDAY 30 MAY 2016: ATACAMA DESERT

Half day Valley of the Moon & Death Valley

Pick up at hotel in the afternoon to enjoy a spectacular sunset over the Moon Valley. Leave San Pedro for Calama, stopping on the way to take some great pictures of the Andean mountain range, the huge Atacama Salt Flat, the active Lascar Volcano and the impressive Licancabur Volcano behind the small oasis of San Pedro de Atacama. Continue to the Valley of the Moon; spectacular rock formations, such as the caverns and salt figures “Tres Marias”, formed over thousands of years of erosion. An optional short hike to one of the giant sand dunes. Return to hotel in San Pedro around 20:00.

Accommodation	:	Hotel Altiplanico
Meals	:	Breakfast
Activity & services	:	Atacama desert
Altitude	:	2400 m/ 7870 ft

DAY 3: TUESDAY 31 MAY 2016: ATACAMA DESERT

Half day Toconao & Salar de Atacama & Laguna Chaxa.

Pick up at hotel to visit the huge salt lake, the Salar de Atacama. On the way visit Toconao, a village where the locals make white volcanic stone sculptures and the houses are built from the same stone. Continue on to the Salar de Atacama, an inland sea that millions of years ago dried up forming a vast plain of octagonal shaped salt crusts in the middle of the driest desert on earth. It is also home to various species of flamingos as well as many other birds. In the afternoon return to the hotel in San Pedro de Atacama.

Accommodation	:	Hotel Altiplanico
Meals	:	Breakfast
Activity & services	:	Atacama desert
Altitude	:	2400 m/ 7870 ft

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE 2016: ATACAMA DESERT - BOLIVIAN DESERT

Early departure for the Bolivian border (Hito Cajones) towards Laguna Verde. The 4-hour morning drive passes more Andean landscapes and wildlife. At midday and just before reaching the hot springs of Polques have a cold lunch and watch the flamingos. After lunch continue on to Laguna Verde in the south of Bolivia almost on the border with Chile. Licancabur Volcano stands guard over the shimmering emerald-green Laguna Verde, which changes hue with the movement of the sun. Arrive at hotel in the middle of the desert in the evening. *(Possible visit to Laguna Colorada depending on time, if not please refer to itinerary description on Day 15).*

Accommodation	: Hotel del Desierto Tayka
Meals	: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Activity & services	: Transfer to Hotel del Desierto Tayka, visit green and red lagoons
Altitude	: 4500 m/ 14760 ft

DAY 5: THURSDAY 2 JUNE 2016: BOLIVIAN DESERT

Set off early for Laguna Colorada to sip hot chocolate while watching three species of flamingos dance to welcome a new day. Continue on through the desert to the Stone Tree and pass the Blanca, Honda, Hedionda, Chiarcota and Negra Lagoons to relax and have lunch prepared by our team. Drive past the Ollagüe Volcano and arrive at hotel.

6-8 hour drive depending on how many stops the group wishes to make. More birds and wildlife at the different lagoons can be seen than in the previous two days.

Accommodation	: Palacio de Sal
Meals	: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Activity & services	: Transfer to hotel, observe flamingos, other wildlife and lagoons
Altitude	: 4500 m/ 14760 ft

DAY 6: FRIDAY 3 JUNE 2016: UYUNI SALT FLAT

Short stop at the Train Graveyard en route for the middle of the Salt Flat to see the pools (“eyes”), salt mountains and salt blocks. This singular route takes us into one of the world’s most isolated areas where we will be alone surrounded by a glittering white landscape. After a couple of hours arrive at Isla Lomo de Pescado to look at giant cacti and the birds and viscachas that have made this island their own. Our chef will prepare a buffet of delicious local produce for lunch before we move on to the Galaxias Grotto (natural coral formations) to visit a pre-colonial cemetery and enter caves to see weird and wonderful rock formations. In the afternoon take one of the hundreds of routes across the Salt Flat to watch the sun go down in a blaze of intense colours.

Accommodation	: Hotel Palacio de Sal
Meals	: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

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Activity & services : Transfer to hotel, visit the train graveyard
Altitude : 3860 m/ 12660 ft

DAY 7: SATURDAY 4 JUNE 2016: UYUNI SALT FLAT

Travel to the foothills of Tunupa Volcano, which is at the edge of the Uyuni Salt Flat. Optional trek for great views and photo opportunities of the Uyuni Salt Flat. Overnight in the town of Tahua.

Accommodation : Hotel Tayka de Sal - Tahua
Meals : Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Activity & services : Transfer to hotel, visit Tunupa Volcano
Altitude : 3860 m/ 12660 ft

DAY 8: SUNDAY 5 JUNE 2016: TAHUA - SAJAMA

The most adventurous day of the tour. Depart early to see pre-Inca mummified remains and tombs at Conquesa along the Lauca Circuit, close to the border with Chile, stopping at several lagoons where a variety of flamingos make their home, and villages with adobe colonial churches. This isolated region is a refuge for many rare Andean birds, alpacas and vicuñas. Arrive late afternoon at Sajama National Park.

Accommodation : Ecolodge Tomarapi
Meals : Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Activity & services : Transfer to Ecolodge Tomarapi – Sajama, visit Coipasa Salt Flats and Coquesta pre Inca tombs
Altitude : 4250 m/ 13940 ft

DAY 9: MONDAY 6 JUNE 2016: SAJAMA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, take a gentle trek in the foothills of the majestic Sajama Mountain, the highest peak in Bolivia. Walk through the highest forest in the world, consisting of dwarf quena trees that reach barely knee-high but grow up to 5,500 m above sea level. Vicuñas, llamas and suri, or Andean ostrich, can often be seen here, and several geysers. Enjoy a simple meal with the local community and perhaps take a dip in the natural hot springs before returning to the lodge.

Accommodation : Ecolodge Tomarapi
Meals : Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Activity & services : Private Tour of Sajama National Park
Altitude : 4250 m/ 13940 ft

DAY 10: TUESDAY 7 JUNE 2016: SAJAMA – PUTRE

Depart Sajama to discover Stone Valley, a unique geological formation, before crossing the border into Chile and into the Lauca National Park to view the Chungara and Cota Cotani lagoons, the dramatic twin Payachatas volcanoes, and the caves in the community of Parinacota. Drive to hotel in Putre.

Accommodation	: Terrace Ecolodge
Meals	: Breakfast & Lunch
Activity & services	: Transfer to Putre, Chile. Visit Lauca National Park
Altitude	: 3500 m/ 11480 ft

DAY 11: WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE 2016: PUTRE

A full day to explore by car or on foot the extraordinary landscapes of the Lauca National Park, one of the most spectacular in Chile.

Accommodation	: Terrace Ecolodge
Meals	: Breakfast
Activity & services	: Tour in Putre
Altitude	: 3500 m/ 11480 ft

DAY 12: THURSDAY 9 JUNE 2016: ARICA

After breakfast visit the pre-Inca fortress at Copaquilla and the Inca *tambo* in the village of Zapahuira. Descend from the Andes to the Azapa valley to stop at the small museum and to see several ancient geoglyphs of giant humans, llamas and an eagle. Arrive at the coastal city of Arica.

Accommodation	: Hotel Plaza Colon
Meals	: Breakfast
Activity & services	: Transfer to Arica. Visit to Geograficos and Momies.
Altitude	: 2 m/ 7 ft

DAY 13: FRIDAY 10 JUNE 2016: ARICA-SANTIAGO

Early flight to Santiago (Private transfer).

Accommodation	: Hotel Lastarria
Meals	: Breakfast
Activity & services	: Flight to Santiago and transfers
Altitude	: 520 m/ 1700 ft

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Possible extensions from Arica:

Peru, Bolivia or Chile