



**NAYARA**

**ALTO ATACAMA**

*Chile*

**TOUR BOOK**  
2023

# All of our tours have been designed to allow a genuine connection with the desert highland plains.



## Cultural and Local tradition

- Lican Antai Culture
- Rainbow Valley



## Contemplative

- Atacama Salt Flat and Toconao Village
- Tatio Geysers
- he Salt Lakes
- High Plateau Lagoons
- Pecan Monks
- Sunset Vallecito, Ckamur zone
- Sunset Cactus
- Cejar Lagoon



## Astronomical

- Andean Astronomy



## Adventure

- Cactus Hike
- Devil's Throat
- Vilama / Devil's Throat
- Jauna Trek

# What to bring?

## **A** RECOMMENDED



First and second layer



Shorts / Short trekking trousers



Hiking shoes



Backpack and personal carry bag



Camera



Binoculars



Water bottle



Factor 30+ sun cream

## **B** DURING SUN EXPOSURE



Hat



Sunglasses

## **C** LOW TEMPERATURES



Jacket



Third layer



Windbreaker



Wooley hat



Snood



Gloves/mittens



Balaclava

## **D** MOUNTAINEERING



Crampons



Walking sticks

## **E** WATER



Swimsuit



Sandals



## CULTURAL EXCURSIONS

The first traces of human activity in the area date back more than 10 thousand years. Since then, the Atacama Desert has continued to be a hub of human interaction, a commercial crossroads for Andean peoples and a proud cradle of Ancient cultural heritage. These tours offer guests the opportunity to explore the legacy left by indigenous populations, from the Lican Antai, to the Tiwanaku people, and later the Inca. This is a chance to understand the heritage of these local hosts a little better.



### ◆ LICAN ANTAI CULTURE

We travel back in time along the San Pedro River to find the first traces of the Atacamenian villages. We visit the 2,400-year-old archaeological site of Tulo which has been invaluable in understanding local history. Then, we tour the town of San Pedro, visit the historic center and its church, to finish in the Pucará de Quito: a 13th century fortress, that reveals what the first human settlements were like in the area.

Duration: Half day  
Difficulty: Medium  
Altitude: 2.480 m  
Acclimatization: None  
What to bring: A  
Distance: 500 mt / 0.3 mi  
+ 11 km/6.89 mi



Duration: Half day  
Difficulty: Medium  
Altitude: 3.250 m  
Acclimatization: None  
What to bring: A  
Distance: 2 km / 1.24 mi  
+ 115 km / 71.45 mi



### ◆ RAINBOW VALLEY (Half day)

Then we visit the Rainbow Valley, named for the multicolored nature of its hills and streams, each one formed by different mineral deposits which reflect the sunlight.





## CONTEMPLATIVES EXCURSIONS

Our contemplative tours are designed to allow a deep immersion into the diverse topography, nature and culture of the Atacama Desert. The varying routes were carefully considered by our expert guides to offer guests the chance of exploring the enigmas of the desert. Most do not require extensive acclimatization or excessive physical exertion; however some are best enjoyed once completely acclimatized.



### ◆ ATACAMA SALT FLAT AND TOCONAO VILLAGE

This tour starts with a visit to Toconao, a local village known for its masonry and architecture which is typical of the area, as well as its important agricultural heritage. Next, we continue to Tamarugos forest, a woodland region en route to the National Reserve of the Flamingos.

Duration: Medium day

Difficulty: Easy

Altitude: 2.300 m

Acclimatization: None

What to bring: A

Distance: 64 km / 39.76 mi



Duration: Full day

Difficulty: Medium

Altitude: 4600 m

Acclimatization: 2 days

What to bring: A B C E

Distance: 100 km / 62.13 mi



\*Breakfast included

### ◆ TATIO GEYSERS

The Tatio Geysers, a name derived from the kunza and which translates like "The crying grandfather", is a geothermal field at 4,321 meters above sea level. We will explore the Geysers, which consist of large pools of boiling water and mud, fumaroles, and natural hot springs. This is also a good chance to appreciate the unique flora and fauna adapted to flourish in this extreme environment.







## ◆ THE SALT LAKES

The tour of Ojos del Salar takes us to two incredibly deep freshwater pools which emerge unannounced from the arid desert plains. This trip is noteworthy for its last stop on the banks the turquoise lagoon of Tebenquiche; we will arrive just in time for sunset. Tebenquiche is known as a unique location to experience the pallet of colours as the sun sets and the light morphs across the ever-changing landscape.

Duration: Medium day  
Difficulty: Easy  
Altitude: 2.410 m  
Acclimatization: None  
What to bring: A B E  
Distance: 32 km / 19.88 mi



Duration: Full day  
Difficulty: Medium  
Altitude: 4.500 m  
Acclimatization: 2 days  
What to bring: A B C  
Distance: 115 km / 71.45 mi

\*Buffet lunch included

## ◆ PECAN MONKS

The wetlands tour offers the chance to delve deep into the Andean landscape, observing a variety of wildlife. The first stop is Quepiaco, an important protected area in the region, and a great place to spot native bird species. Next it is the Pujsa Salt Flat, the largest reserve of its kind and the migration point for nesting flamingos to lay their eggs. Finally, guests visit the immense rock formations known as the 'Pecan monks', noted for their sheer size and sudden emergence from the desert ground.







### ◆ HIGH PLATEAU LAGOONS

This excursion will take guests through the southeast region of San Pedro. The first stop will be at a crossroads with the old Inca Trail, the main way that linked this powerful empire from Ecuador to Chile. The tour continues to Socaire, a local village known for its traditional church and historical terraced plantations of quinoa and purple potatoes. Next, on to the high Andean lagoons of Miscanti and Miñiques. Formed as a result of ancient ice thaws, these crystal waters provide a sanctuary to observe the immensity of the mountains. The region is also a showpiece for the unique flora and fauna adapted to these high-altitude conditions.

Duration: Full day  
Difficulty: Medium  
Altitude: 4.120 m  
Acclimatization: 2 days  
What to bring: A B E  
Distance: 125 km / 77.67 mi



\*Buffet lunch included

Duration: Half day  
Difficulty: Easy  
Altitude: 2.650 m  
Acclimatization: None  
What to bring: A B  
Distance: 45 km / 27.9 mi



### ◆ SUNSET VALLECITO, CKAMUR ZONE

One of the most scenic places in the area, located at the Salt Mountain Range and about 22 km away from San Pedro de Atacama. We will visit a set of landscapes of incomparable beauty, which resemble a fragment of the lunar landscape. The valley also presents an indescribable aspect, full of majesty and silence, coldly beautiful and imposing.





### ◆ SUNSET CACTUS

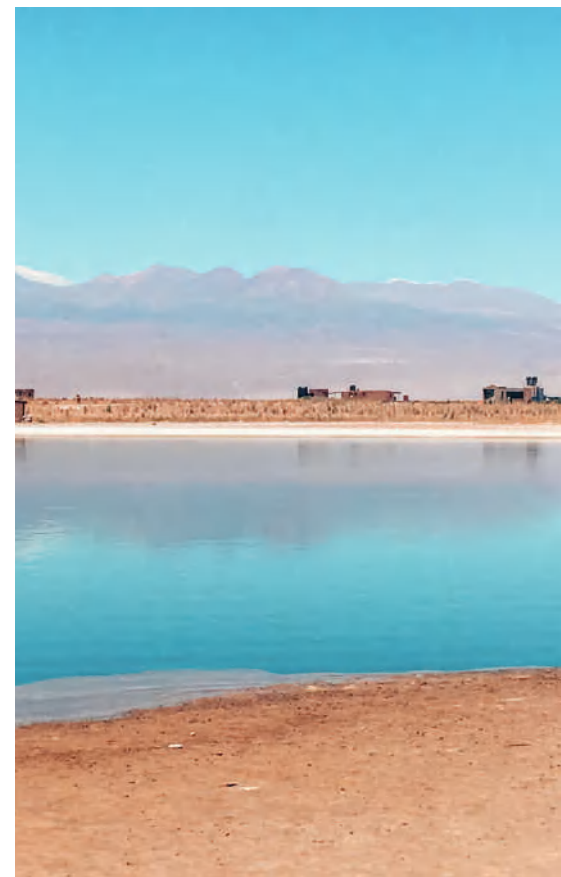
If you are one of those who seek to connect with the interior and the peace that the nature of the Atacama Desert provides, the Sunset Cactus excursion is perfect. This 2 km walk in the Puritama river sector leads us to the Guatin viewpoint that allows you to enjoy a privileged view of the sunset, surrounded by a forest of native desert cactus.

Duration: Half day  
Difficulty: Medium  
Altitude: 2.700 m  
Acclimatization: None  
What to bring: A B  
Distance: 45 km / 27.93 mi

Duration: Half day  
Difficulty: Medium  
Altitude: 2.700 m  
Acclimatization: None  
What to bring: A B E

### ◆ CEJAR LAGOON

About 20 km south of San Pedro de Atacama we are already entering the Salar de Atacama, where we will find the wonderful mix of emerald and blue colors of Cejar Lagoon, a very high salt concentration lagoon that allows us to float in the water, with a view of the Licancabur Volcano and the Salt Mountain Range. It is the perfect place to disconnect and feel the immensity of the Salar de Atacama.





## EXCURSIONS\_ASTRONOMICAL

The skies of the Atacama Desert are a window to the universe. Worldwide recognized as one of the best for the practice of astronomy, here the night gives way to an intense show of lights and shapes whose tracks lead to the stellar times where it all began. The experience of connecting with the universe through the skies of Atacama is a true spectacle of discovery and wonder.



## ◆ ANDEAN ASTRONOMY

To make the most of our privileged position in the desert, we have installed the only open-air observatory in the region. It sits atop one of the many hills near the hotel. There, eight swivel chairs and a powerful telescope will enable guests to take in the intricacies of our universe with real clarity while here. You will also have the knowledge of one of our expert guides to answer questions and give information on the long history of human astronomical discoveries.

Duration: One Hour

Difficulty: Easy

Altitude: 2.490 m

Acclimatization: None

What to bring: A C



## ADVENTURE EXCURSIONS

Our adventure tours will offer guests just that - an adventure!  
This range of walking and biking excursions allow the force of  
the desert to be revealed with the natural energy it deserves.





## ◆ JAUNA TREK

It is a full day hike in the highlands. Jauna is located about 65 km north of San Pedro de Atacama. Starting at an altitude of 4200 meters above sea level, we will go through its wetlands to observe its unique flora and fauna.

Duration: Full day

Difficulty: Medium

Altitude: 4500 m

Acclimatization: 2 days

What to bring: A B

Distance: 5.8 km / 3.6 mi

+ 100 km / 62.13 mi



Duration: Half day

Difficulty: High

Altitude: 3.166 m

Acclimatization: None

What to bring: A

Distance: 45 km / 27.9 mi

+ 4.5 km / 2.7 mi



## ◆ CACTUS HIKE

This hike begins in Guatín, at the point where the Puritama and Purifica rivers meet, turning into the mighty Vilama River from Guatín onwards. We will trek through diverse rock formations and vegetation, including ancient cacti standing at over seven meters tall. The region was once populated with an abundance of shepherding communities so you will pass through former settlements as you walk.







### ◆ DEVIL'S THROAT

This excursion begins on mountain bike from the Ayllu (settlement) of Quito. From here the path winds through the spectacular gorges of the Cordillera de la Sal in the Catarpe Valley. The tour continues to the Garganta del Diablo (Devil's Throat), named in connection with ancient myths of the local people. Finally, you will bike to visit San Isidro and its perfectly situated church as an ideal end to the ride.

Duration: Half day  
Difficulty: Medium  
Altitude: 2.500 m  
Acclimatization: None  
What to bring: A  
Distance: 18 km / 11.18 mi

Duration: Half day  
Difficulty: Medium  
Altitude: 2.700 m  
Acclimatization: None  
What to bring: A  
Distance: 5.8 km / 3.6 mi  
+ 6 km / 3.7 mi



### ◆ VILAMA / DEVIL'S THROAT

This varied hike takes in a mix of both intriguing archaeological history and captivating landscapes, carved out predominantly by the ferocious flood waters of the Vilama and San Pedro Rivers over many millennia. Starting at the Vilama sulphur mine, the route then follows in the footsteps of local shepherds of times gone by, until reaching the ancient petroglyphs of Lican Antai, a real-life history lesson and glimpse of the past. Finally, we continue to the ominously named Devil's Throat Canyon, which offers sublime views across the Cordillera de la Sal.

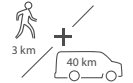




### ◆ ROCK ART

The walk begins when you reach the Cordillera de la Sal. Passing through the Plain of Patience and after a 2 km ascent you will find a privileged view of the iconic formations of the mountain range, and you will recognize the history and worldview of the first inhabitants of the desert through petroglyphs over 1,500 years old.

Duration: Half day  
Difficulty: Medium  
Altitude: 2.630 m  
Acclimatization: None  
What to bring: A  
Distance: 3 km / 1.86 mi  
+ 40 km / 24.85 mi



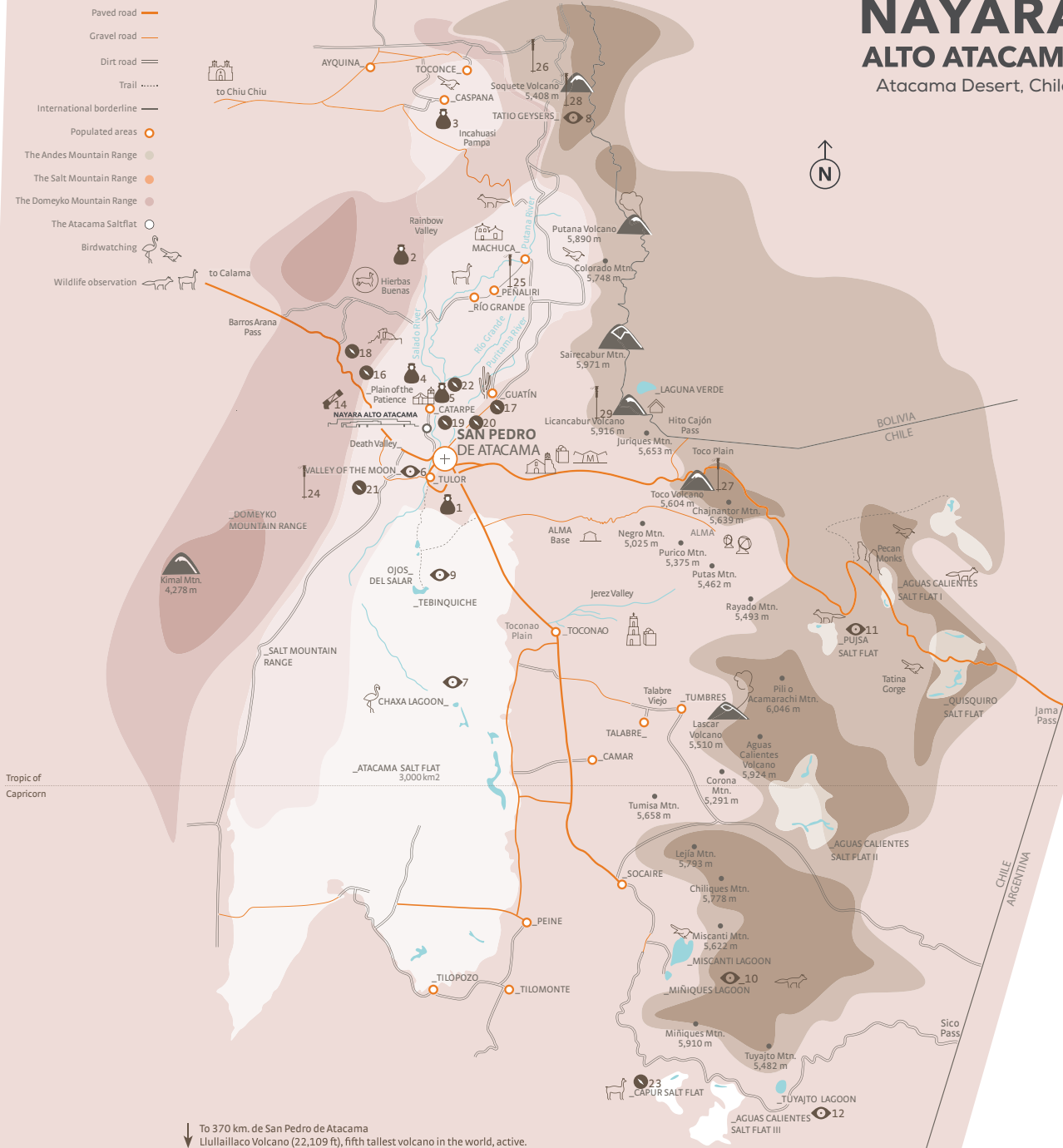
Duration: Full day  
Difficulty: Medium  
Altitude: 3.250 m  
Acclimatization: None  
What to bring: A  
Distance: 10 km / 6.21 mi  
+ 115 km / 71.45 mi



### ◆ RAINBOW VALLEY (Full day)

The Rainbow Valley Full Day Hike, named for the multicolored layers of its hills and ravines, each formed by different mineral deposits that reflect sunlight, is an upriver hike of approximately 10 kilometers. We will recognize the life of local agriculture and herding and arrive at a viewpoint where we will contemplate the Rainbow Valley from above in a unique and majestic view. We descend and cross the Valley to then follow a grazing path that takes us to the Jones sector, where the pukará of the place can be recognized. The entire experience is complemented by a buffet lunch on site.





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