

## NORTHERN CHILE FROM ARICA TO IQUIQUE CROSSING THE ALTIPLANO

5 days/4 nights Suggested Itinerary

### DAY 01: ARICA

Arrival to Arica Airport and transfer to selected Hotel.

Arica it's the most northern city of Chile. It has different attractions for those who enjoy the sun and excellent weather conditions. The Pacific Ocean is its natural boundary, and its shores are ideal for swimming and practice water sports. Arica also offers all sorts of outdoor activities, not just water related ones, and an important historic and cultural patrimony.

*Today enjoy a City Tour of Arica:* visit a fascinating city with a colorful past seen through its architecture and national monuments such as St. Mark's Cathedral and the ex-Customs Building, both designed and pre-fabricated by Gustav Eiffel. You will continue this tour along the south coast and places of interest such as the "ex" Alacran (Scorpion) Island and the southern beaches where we can see illustrated in murals, a concise history of Arica and the Fishmeal Industry, driving force of the city's economy, then on the Azapa Valley.

The site of the Cerro Sombrero prehispanic settlement and its panels of Geoglyphs highlighting a herd of camelids. Cerro Sagrado (Sacred Hill) illustrating ancestral beliefs through its panels of geoglyphs. The Pukara de San Lorenzo, a defensive settlement constructed on artificial terraces.

Visit the Archaeological Museum, illustrating the complete evolution of the area from its most ancient inhabitants up till the arrival of the Spanish, about 10.000 years of history. Here in the museum are examples of the most ancient mummified remains in the world. Visit the Artisans Village and the opportunity to appreciate some of the local art and handicrafts. Visit the Morro of Arica another piece of history, it is a steep and tall hill located in the city. Its height is 139 meters above sea level. It was the last bulwark of defense for the Peruvian troops who garrisoned the city. Back to the Hotel.

Accommodation at Selected Hotel in Arica



## **DAY 02: ARICA-SOCORAMA-LAGO CHUNGARÁ-PUTRE**

After breakfast at Hotel you will head off to Putre for a Tour of the Lluta Valley.

Azapa and Lluta valleys is where Arica gets most of its fresh vegetables and produce, you will be amazed to see the distinct line between the fertile valley floors and the totally barren and desert-like mountainsides. Short stop to look at ancient geoglyphs of creatures etched on a mountainside; appreciate candelabra Cactus at 3000 meters (which grow only a few millimeters a year) at Quebrada de Cardones, before reaching the pre Inca fort of Pukara de Copaquilla from which you will be able to view the distant and dramatic landscape. At this point you can see the snow covered mountain of Larancagua (5439 m) below which sits Putre at 3500 meters.



Later arrival to Lauca National Park, where you can see the impressive Chungara Lake and Parinacota volcano, which is reflected on its emerald waters. The lake is one of the highest lakes in the world, and it's located at more than 4500 meters above the sea, in front of Pachayata Volcanoes (Twin Volcanoes in aymara): the Parinacota volcano and Pomerape volcano, both with more than 6 thousand meters of height. At the surroundings of the volcanoes is also the mythic town of Parinacota (Place of parinas, a specie of flamingos, in aymara), with houses gathered around its church, considered National Monument. **Enjoy a Picnic on route.**



Arrival to Putre. Located at 3500 meters above sea level, in the Altiplano Andino, here time seems to be stopped, there are still buildings from XIX century or even XVII century, from the time of the economical apogee, because of the Choquelimpie gold's exploitation. There are historical streets as O'Higgins Street, which is crossed by a small stream and counts with stone bridges, and historical buildings such as Putre's Church, which was built in 1670 with stones.

Accommodation at Selected Hotel in Putre

## **DAY 03: PUTRE- GUALLATIRI-SALAR DE SURIRE-COLCHANE**

After breakfast at the hotel, we start our journey towards Las Vicuñas National Reserve, where the wide open spaces, colors and overwhelming silence will leave you with a lasting memory.



Llamas, alpacas and vicuñas are abundant on the arid plains of this area of the altiplano. Also worthy to see is the wide variety of bird life and the possibility to see the ñandu or lesser rhea. On route we will see a number of isolated shepherds' settlements and pass

through the Andean village of Guallatire with its XVII Century church facing the active volcano of the same name. Soon after we arrive in one of the most stunning areas of the altiplano, at 4.245 meters over sea level, the Surire Salt Flats and its immense collection of pink flamingos; where three species are present here in Surire. Enjoy Box Lunch.

Later the tour continues to Colchane.  
Accommodation and dinner at a Posada in Colchane

## **DAY 04: COLCHANE- IQUIQUE**

After breakfast you will depart to Iquique.

Iquique is known for its good weather and privileged beaches with "Playa Cavancha" being the largest, and also for its 19th century architecture which can be visited mainly downtown. Its origins are linked with the mining activities during that century, when European entrepreneurs became rich with the extraction of saltpetre and established their homes in the city. Many of them constructed big houses in different styles that predominated during the period and grouped in colonies with their respective buildings, with special stylistic, material and constructive adaptations to the climate of Iquique.

A morning trip will take you to the north pampa, a place where you can have the chance of discovering the indescribable and magical Atacama Desert, the driest desert of the world, you will become witness to splendorous past of the sodium nitrate in Santa Laura and Humberstone mining towns declared national monuments. Then continue the trip to Huara village by getting the road that leads to Unita hill, an 86 mts line drawing figure on ground called the Atacama Giant.

Later the outing leads us to Pintados lines, one of the most important archaeological heritages, unique in this part of the world, consisting of more than 400 cave art figures which are spread on the mountainsides/hillsides. Human, animal and bird figures are really remarkable due to the mosaic, scrape and mix techniques applied to their constructions. Enjoy Box Lunch.

Accommodation at Selected Hotel in Iquique.

## **DAY 05: IQUIQUE-OUT**

After breakfast, transfer to local airport.

**END OF OUR SERVICES.**

