



**ADVENTURES**  
IN GOOD COMPANY



## CHILE: FROM ATACAMA TO PATAGONIA

### TRIP SUMMARY

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Visiting the Atacama Desert, one of the highest and driest deserts in the world
- Exploring the wild and stunning landscape of Patagonia
- Learning about the regions dizzying array of geological features, from deserts and geysers to glaciers and ancient forests
- Walking tours of some of Chile's most beautiful and historical cities including Valparaiso, Santiago, and Puerto Natales
- Experiencing the vast range of Chilean cuisine

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## TRIP AT A GLANCE

**Location:** Chile

**Activities:** Multisport

**Arrive:** At the Hotel Fundador, Santiago, Chile at 6:00 PM on Day 1.

**Depart:** Day 11, Santiago Airport (SCL), we will arrive at the airport mid to afternoon for evening flights home. Do not book flights until the internal flights have been purchased approximately 4 months prior to trip start.

### TRIP OVERVIEW

Chile is a country of startling contrasts and extreme beauty. On this trip we will immerse ourselves in this country's rich and historic culture by visiting a variety of colorful cities, villages, and points of interest. We'll hike through a stunning array of geological formations, from lunar landscapes to ancient forests. We'll visit the high Atacama Desert, the driest place on earth; and Torres del Paine, known for its wild weather and amazing geology. Encompassing a vast variety of local flora, fauna, and stunning geological features, this park has earned a reputation as one of the most spectacular places on Earth. We'll also take an opportunity to visit handicraft markets and local sea food markets. Throughout this trip we'll savor the variety of Chilean cuisine and the people who live here.

### RATING

This trip is designed for active women in good physical condition who want to combine walking and hiking with immersion in the sights, smells, culture, and cuisine of Chile. While the mileage is not high, some of our walks are at higher elevations with steep inclines. A rating of 2 is suitable for any woman who regularly walks at a **brisk** pace 3 to 4 days a week for 35 - 45 minutes. These trips typically involve 3 to 5 hours of daily activity. **Rating:** 1 [2](#) 3 4 5.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A local guide and an AGC guide
- 7 nights double occupancy lodging, and 3 nights in a hotel in rooms with three beds and a private bath
- All meals from dinner on Day 1 thru Dinner on Day 10 with the exception of on dinner and 4 lunches, as identified on the itinerary
- National Park entrance fees
- Airport transfers at the beginning and end of the trip, regardless of what day you arrive
- Ground transfers in a private bus
- All activities on the itinerary except for those specified as optional

**Not included:** Transportation to and from Santiago or flights within Chile, airport taxes, alcoholic beverages, gratuities. We will arrange the internal flights approximately 4 months prior to departure. You can expect the additional cost to be about \$400-\$500. Any registrations after this time will likely be more expensive, and we cannot be guaranteed they will be on the same flights as the rest of the participants.

## OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

### DAY 1

Welcome to Chile, a country of startling contrasts and extreme beauty with attractions ranging from the towering volcanic peaks of the Andes to the ancient forests of the Lake District. We'll be arriving throughout the day at the Santiago Airport. From here you'll be transferred to Hotel Fundador, our home for the next two nights. We have a city tour of Santiago in the morning, for those who've arrived in Santiago early, culminating in a visit to the summit of Cerro San Cristobal. Here we enjoy a birds-eye view of Santiago, the Andean Mountains, and the Maipo-Valley, the best viewpoint of the city! Otherwise, our trip officially begins in the lobby at 6:00 PM. After greetings and introductions, we'll get to know one another over a dinner of delicious Chilean cuisine and discuss our upcoming adventures. We'll make it an early night to be fresh for tomorrow's adventure. D

### DAY 2

This morning we visit the World Heritage city of Valparaiso, Chile's oldest port and only about 1.5 hours away from Santiago. The city's many hills are covered in multi-colored houses, creating a spectacular panorama which can be enjoyed from a number of vantage points atop the hills. Walking the streets of Valparaiso becomes a great adventure as we encounter the residents of several neighborhoods and soak up the quirky and bohemian atmosphere, something different from anywhere else in Chile. We'll visit the former residence of poet and national treasure, Pablo Neruda, called La Sebastiana, and afterwards we'll have lunch in one of the typical restaurants situated in the port area. From Valparaiso we will continue along the coast for about another 20 minutes to the beautiful beaches of Vina del Mar, named the Garden City for its many parks and green spaces. After soaking in the modern and contrasting surrounds of Vina del Mar, we will return to Santiago in the afternoon. Walking: approx. 6 miles (4-5 hours). Hotel Fundador ([www.hotelfundador.cl](http://www.hotelfundador.cl)). B, L, D

### DAY 3

We take a morning flight to Calama in Northern Chile, where we will catch a 1.5 hour shuttle ride to San Pedro de Atacama, our base for the next three nights as we explore the region of the Atacama desert. En route there are spectacular views of the Cordillera de la Sal (Salt Mountains). The rest of the morning is free to spend at your leisure, go shopping, and interact with the locals. In the afternoon we'll hike in the Cornizas and Valle de la Luna (Moon Valley). This bizarre lunar landscape is set ablaze with color at sunset, the strange rock formations framed by the Lincancabur Volcano. We'll stay until the sun goes down to enjoy the array of colors. Walking: approx. 2 - 3 miles (3 hours) reaching a maximum altitude of 8,200 feet. If the sky is clear, and the moon is not full, there will also be an opportunity to participate in an optional astronomy tour - approximately \$35. Hotel Don Tomas or similar ([www.dontomas.cl](http://www.dontomas.cl)). B, D

#### DAY 4

Today we will be exploring the region near San Pedro de Atacama, with several opportunities to stop and take a walk. Our first stop will be the village of Socaire. The village is noteworthy for its peculiar architecture using rough stonework and for the local reliance on age-old methods of planting terraced fields of crops. We then continue on to reach the majestic silence of the Miscanti and Miniques highland lagoons. The two volcanoes of the same names are visible in the background; the twin lagoons are a deep blue, each framed by a white salt crust which creates a memorable contrast to the yellow highland grass all around. At our next stop we visit Salar de Atacama, a salt lake of huge proportions covered by a thick layer of snow-white salt crystals as far as the eye can see. The salt pan is home to several flamingo species. These beautiful birds and other species can be observed in their natural habitat at the Salar de Atacama's Chaxa Lagoon, which is part of the Reserva Nacional de los Flamencos. After the excursion we will return to San Pedro. Walking: approx. 3 miles, in altitude and warm temperatures. Hotel Don Tomas or similar. B, L, D

#### DAY 5

In order to experience the El Tatio Geysers, we'll have to get up very early so we can arrive at the geyser field in time for sunrise! The fountains that shoot up to 33 feet high occur when the morning sun melts the nightly ice caps that form over the hot springs. The sun's first rays reflect an array of colors as they mix with boiling jets coming from the geysers to create strong contrasts of steam and light. Around midday we'll head back to San Pedro for some free time to recover from the early start and altitude. The afternoon is free to explore and to visit the market. Hotel Don Tomas or similar. B, D

#### DAY 6

This is a long travelling day (but so worth it!!) that will likely require an early start as we will have a 1.5 hour drive from San Pedro de Atacama to Calama for an early flight to Santiago, and then from Santiago to board a flight to Punta Arenas - the southernmost city of Chile. From here we'll drive about three hours to Puerto Natales where we will spend the night and start the Patagonia part of our adventure. Lady Florence Hotel or similar. B, D

#### DAY 7

This morning we drive into Torres del Paine National Park, one of the most spectacular national parks in the world. It has a huge variety of plant and animal species which, together with its snow-capped mountain peaks, cascading rivers and waterfalls, glaciers and mirrored lakes, have earned it a reputation as one of the most spectacular places on earth. This is a busy day of traveling and walking, including unforgettable views of the Towers and the Torres Massif from the Cuernos viewpoint and Salto Grande waterfall. Here we will be staying at Hotel del Payne or similar, in triple rooms for three nights. B, D

## DAY 8

Today is a full day in Torres del Paine National Park, this time to explore the Western highlights. After checking in at Hotel Lago Grey, we'll walk for 45 minutes, crossing the Pingo River on a suspension bridge. From here the path leads through a Lenga forest, typical of the area, and continues onward to the tip of the narrow peninsula at the lake's southern end. The view from here offers a spectacular view of the lake with its icebergs, the tongue of Grey Glacier at the far northern end, and the snow-covered mountain peaks soaring above. We'll board a boat for a 2 hour 45 minute boat trip on the lake. This deep lake, fed by the glacier of the same name, is filled with icebergs which have splashed down from the massive ice flow coming off of Grey Glacier. Accompanied by a local guide who will explain the glaciology of the area, the boat will navigate among the icebergs up to the a safe distance from the snout of the glacier. On the way back from the boat we will stop at the Visitors' Center to see an exposition of the origin and history of the park. B, L, D

## DAY 9

After breakfast we will drive to the starting point of a leisurely hike in Las Torres Section. The hike borders the Nordenskjöld Lake, named after the Swede Otto Nordenskiöld who discovered the lake in the beginning of the 20th century. This trail is part of the W trek, but today we will just enjoy the walk at leisure, stopping to enjoy the views and learn about the geography of the area. We'll cross the Ascencio River on a hanging bridge and stop by a gushing mountain waterfall to fill our bottles. Continuing on, we'll have many bird sightings and a view of a constantly avalanching mountainside - often you hear the avalanche start and try to quickly look for the visual! We'll stop for lunch at the intensely turquoise Nordenskjöld Lake, a color unlike anything you've ever seen. Hotel del Payne or similar. Hiking: 3.2 miles

## DAY 10

On our last day in Torres del Paine we'll visit Laguna Azul on the quiet side of the park. The lake is said to have one of the best views of the iconic towers. We'll hike along peaceful trails for about four hours, with spectacular views of the snow-capped Andes as well as the towers, and likely observe guanacos and other wildlife. It will be a great ending for our visit to this amazing park. In the afternoon we'll return to Puerto Natales for our final farewell dinner, sharing memories of our journey to this fabled land. Lady Florence Dixie Hotel or similar. B, L, D

## DAY 11

Sadly, it is time to say goodbye to Chile and to one another. Today we travel south across the barren Pampa of Patagonia, an impressive 3 hour road trip as we journey to Punta Arenas Airport where we will fly back to Santiago and catch our flights back home. We will arrive back in Santiago airport in late afternoon for evening flights home.

# ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

## GETTING THERE

The most direct airport is the Santiago International Airport (SCL). There is a Transvip shuttle service at the Santiago airport which provides shuttles into Santiago. We will provide you with vouchers, regardless of what day you arrive, for a shuttle to the Hotel Fundador. A city tour of Santiago will be offered, meeting in the lobby of the Hotel Fundador, at 10:00 AM on Day 1 for those who've arrived early. Otherwise, please plan on being at the Santiago Airport no later than 4:00 PM, giving you time to meet us at the hotel as the trip will officially start in the hotel lobby 6:00 PM. If you would like to arrive earlier than Day 1 to have more time to explore Santiago, we are happy to make pre-trip room arrangements for you at Hotel Fundador. Further information will be provided in the PreDeparture and you will have an option to request pre-trip rooms 5 months before the trip start.

**If you would like help with any travel plans** we recommend contacting our travel agency, Exito Travel. Start by submitting the form you can find here: [https://pay2.exitotravel.com/referral\\_form?affiliate\\_id=1090&client=1](https://pay2.exitotravel.com/referral_form?affiliate_id=1090&client=1). If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

We will be staying in locally owned hotels in Santiago, San Pedro de Atacama, Puerto Natales and the Torres del Paine National Park, as specified in the daily itinerary. All rooms are double occupancy and have en suite bathrooms, with the exception of the three nights in Torres del Paine. In Torres del Paine we will be staying in hotel rooms with three beds each, and a private bath en suite. There are two single supplements available for this trip, but they do not include single accommodations for the nights in Torres del Paine.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

WE RECOMMEND TRIP CANCELLATION/TRIP INTERRUPTION INSURANCE, WHICH CAN HELP COVER YOUR COSTS IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL OR INTERRUPT YOUR TRIP. Travel protection plans can also include coverage for Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay and more. Adventures in Good Company will send you information about travel insurance with your registration information, or you may purchase coverage through your own insurance company. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit [www.travelexinsurance.com](http://www.travelexinsurance.com) or contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 20-0016. The product descriptions provided here are only brief summaries. The full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, are contained in the insurance policy. Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276. 11.17 83I

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

To qualify for any refunds, we must receive notification in writing, by fax, email or mail to: Adventures in Good Company, 5913 Brackenridge Ave, Baltimore, MD 21212, Fax: 410-435-3084. Cancellation date is the date the notice is received by Adventures in Good Company in writing, either by fax, email or letter.

In the unfortunate event that you must cancel your trip, your refund will be determined by the following formula:

| <b>Days Prior to Trip</b> |                 |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>International</b>      | <b>Domestic</b> | <b>Refund</b>   |
| 120 + days                | 90+ days        | All but \$50    |
| 120 - 60 days             | 90 - 45 days    | 50% of trip fee |
| 59 days or less           | 44 days or less | No refund       |

If you have paid in full, we have a waiting list, and we can fill your spot from that list, everything but your deposit will be transferred to another trip of your choosing for which you register in the next 365 days. Trip fees may be transferred from one person to another if, in the opinion of the Adventures in Good Company staff, it is determined that the other person is in the proper physical condition to participate in the trip activity.

Adventures in Good Company reserves the right to cancel or alter a trip due to unforeseen weather, unsafe conditions, low registrations or other circumstances. On the rare occasion when Adventures in Good Company must cancel a trip, all payments received to date will be refunded, including the non-refundable portion of your deposit.

Adventures in Good Company is not responsible for expenses incurred in preparation for any canceled trips, including airplane tickets.