



Excursions

tierra atacama

2023



tierra atacama

When you arrive at Tierra Atacama, our team will create a personalized excursion plan for you. Our expert guides take into consideration your personal interests and physical activity level so that you can explore the driest desert in the world in your own way.


Activities are divided into five levels of difficulty:

Easy 
Appropriate for all ages and abilities.

Medium - Easy 
Requires a basic level of physical fitness.

Medium 
Requires some degree of physical fitness and experience.

Medium - Difficult 
Requires a good level of physical fitness and experience.

Difficult 
Only for people who are very fit, with experience in wilderness areas.

During your stay, the all-inclusive program allows you to choose two half-day excursions or one full-day excursion per day, except on the day of your departure.

- **Half day:** These activities take place in the morning and/or the afternoon, lunch is served at the hotel.

- **Full day:** These excursions begin in the morning and include lunch away from the hotel.

This may be in the form of a box lunch, a buffet table or lunch at a restaurant, depending on the excursion. Return to the hotel is usually after 6:00 pm.

If you would like to make the most of Uma Spa during your stay, once you arrive at the hotel, you can check excursion arrival times with your guide and book your treatment.

** We recommend that you avoid high altitude tours (more than 4,000 m above sea level) if you are pregnant or have high blood pressure or other health conditions.*

*** All of our excursions are subject to weather conditions, availability and the entrance policies established by the indigenous communities in charge of the protected areas.*

1. Quebrada del Diablo

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half day

- ↳ Transfer: 20 min.
- Hike: 2,5 - 3 hrs.
- Altitude: 2.400 m.a.s.l.

Discover the beguiling land formations of the Quebrada del Diablo and enjoy a dose of local heritage, here in the Cordillera de la Sal. From 'Devil's Canyon,' we'll hike along a flat, dried-up riverbed, flanked on either side by rock walls.

After a steady ascent to a lookout point and rewarding views of the mountains, volcanoes and oasis of San Pedro down below, we'll visit the petroglyphs, signs of travelers and tradesmen who used these trails for centuries. A steep descent will return us to our driver





2. Guatin Gatchi Valley

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half day



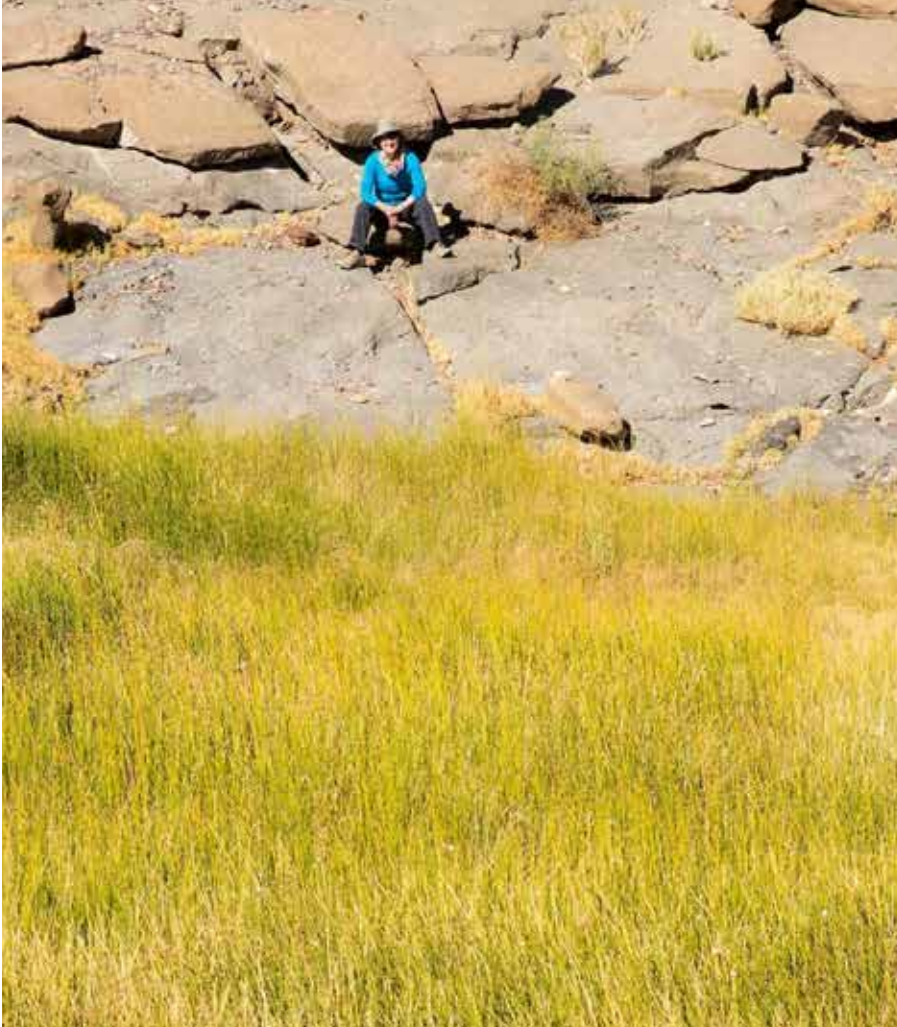
Transfer: 35 min.

Hike: 2.5-3 hrs.

Altitude: 3.200 m.a.s.l.

This tour of the Guatin Gatchi Valley features distinctive desert plant life, rivers, a Cardon forest and giant cacti. We will hike through this landscape to the place where the warm, thermal waters of the Puritama River merge with the cool, mountain meltwaters of the Purifica to become the Vilama River, which brings life to Guatin Valley's delicate ecosystem.

We'll continue our way through the valley, dotted with small waterfalls, along a rocky pathway. After crossing a gushing river, we'll finish the walk with a sweeping view of the vast valley below.



3. Purilactis

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Full day

🕒 Transfer: 45 min.
Hike: 3,5-4 hrs.
Altitude: 3.500 m.a.s.l.

Crystalline rivers, dramatic rock formations and some of the region's oldest petroglyphs are featured along this trek. We'll head toward the Domeyko Mountain Range, a stretch of steep spires which line a valley and its dried-up riverbed below. Hiking from 3000 m (9842 ft) above sea level, we'll move away from the river's life-giving waters and into the arid gorge. The 10,000-year-old petroglyph carvings of Yervas Buenas, a former trade crossroads, will be viewed along the way.

Finally, the Rainbow Valley will come into view. Formed after many millennia of shifting wind patterns and weather systems, its otherworldly feel is accompanied by the artistic spectacle of its multicolored cliffs. After descending to meet our driver, we will enjoy a lunch and then return to the hotel.

4. Cerro Toco Volcano Climb* (with acclimatization)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Full day

↳ Transfer: 1 hr.
Caminata: 3-4 hrs.
Altitud: 5.600 m.a.s.l.


Located just 6 km from the border between Chile and Bolivia, this extinct volcano is far less visited than its better-known nearby cousins, Licancabur and Lascar, but it offers equally astounding views. Our van will drop you off at the 5,000 m (16,400 ft) trailhead, where dusty paths lead into dramatic hills, some of which may be dusted with snow. Once having ascended to 5,600 m (18,700 ft), take time to revel in the surrounding mountain scape, Laguna Blanca and the Salar de Atacama before descending to the van and returning to the hotel. Please note: Climbing Atacama hills and volcanoes is highly challenging. Before climbing, guests must acclimatize for a minimum of five nights and must be of legal age. We reserve the right to prohibit high-altitude excursions based on the physical conditions of guests.





5. Rainbow Valley

 Half day


 Transfer: 45 min.
Hike: 60 min.
Altitude: 3.200 m.a.s.l.

Discover ancient petroglyphs and admire the Rainbow Valley's kaleidoscope of color, a geological and archaeological treat. The drive leads us westward to the Domeyko Mountains and the Rainbow Valley, whose stripes of copper, silver, jade, violet (and everything in-between) lend this sacred place its name. A 30-minute walk will allow time to marvel at the terrain, the result of erosion and environmental processes that created this mineral-rich rock face.

We'll then head for the town of Hierbas Buenas, where intricate pre-Columbian petroglyphs depict animals and mysterious ancient messages.

6. Vallecito

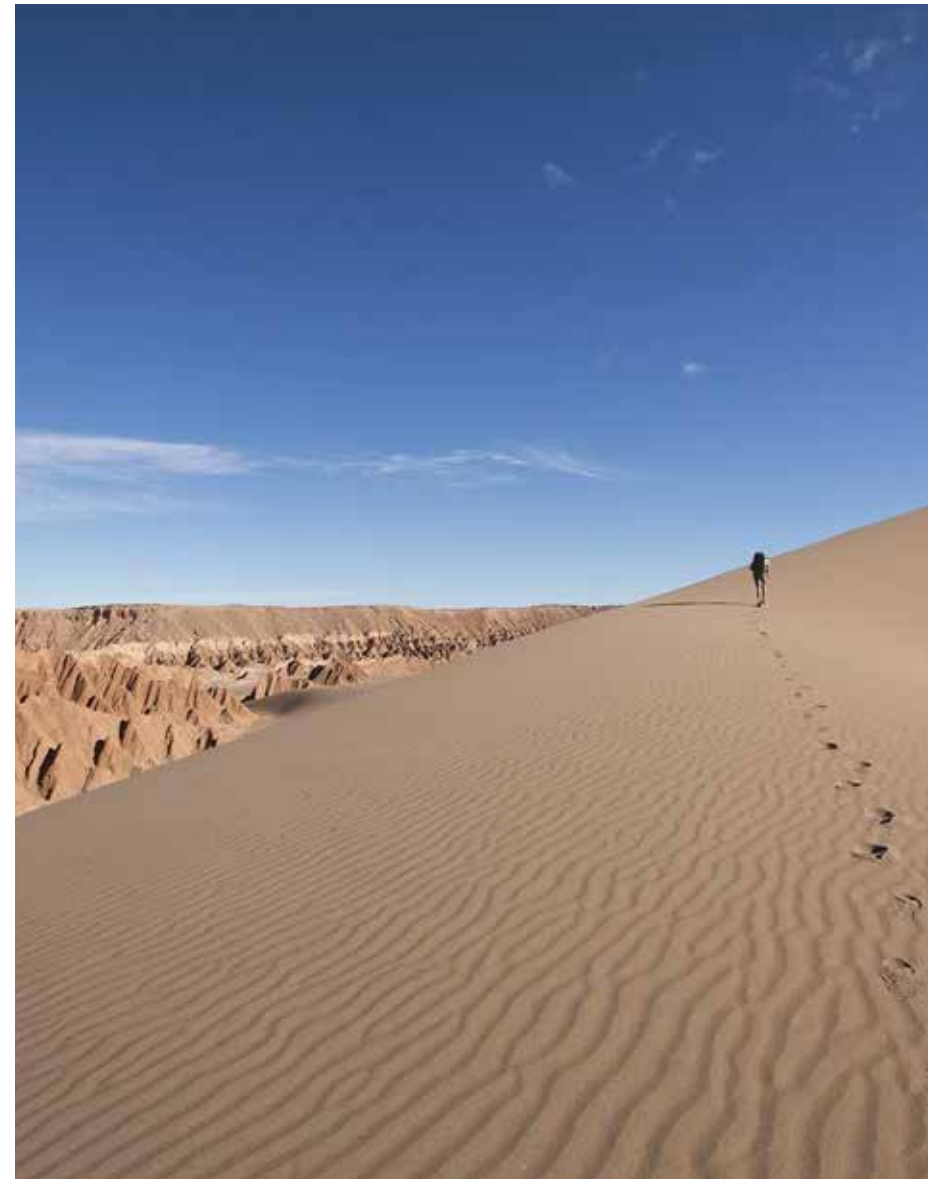
 Half day

 Transfer: 30 min.
Hike: 60 min.
Altitude: 2.400 m.a.s.l.

On this walk we will go to the salt mountain range located to the west of the San Pedro Oasis. Once there, we will make three stops. The first is a wonderful landscape with lots of selenite (plaster glass) that begins to shine with the morning sunlight.

At the second stop we will see a huge salt crystal, which plays beautiful music thanks to temperature changes that cause its crystals to expand and contract. This stop features an abandoned bus, a ruin from the time of the salt mines.

At our last stop we will visit a lookout that leads to a giant sand dune, through which we can descend as we get in touch with our playful sides by running and taking in this lunar landscape.



7. Tatio Geysers* (with acclimatization)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Full day

🕒 Transfer: 1-1,5 hrs.
Hike: 60 min.
Altitude: 4.200 m.a.s.l.

Feast your eyes on the Tatio Geysers, one of the world's most impressive geothermal sites and certainly an icon of the Atacama Desert. We'll set off early morning to reach the Tatio Geysers, just as the sun emerges along the horizon, casting an ethereal glow on vapor columns up to 12 meters tall.

We'll spend some time appreciating the wonder of this geothermal field, home to over 80 active geysers which protrude from bubbling pools of boiling water, then have breakfast with views of the geysers. On the drive home vicuñas, foxes, vizcachas and Andean ostriches are often spotted. Finally, we will stop at the picturesque, adobe village of Machuca with its artisanal craft stalls and wooden church.

*This excursion is not suitable for people with health conditions, due to the altitude.



8. Piedras Rojas*

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Full day

🕒 Transfer: 1,5 hrs.
Hike: 45 min.
Altitude: 4.200 m.a.s.l.

On this tour we will visit 3 beautiful lagoons. We will head south and arrive first at the Miscanti Lagoon, located 1 hour and 30 minutes from the hotel and 4,100 m. above sea level. We will take an approximately 15-minute walk around a path along the beautiful lagoon and surrounded by different animals. Then we will continue to Meñiques, where there is only one lookout point from which to appreciate the lagoon. Once Miscanti and Miñiques have been enjoyed, we will continue towards Piedras Rojas. There is a flat path here which takes about 45 minutes to walk, (due to the altitude activity is demanding). After the hike, we will have a delicious lunch and then return to the hotel.





9. The Salar de Atacama

 Half day



Transfer: 1,5 hrs.

Hike: 45 min.

Altitude: 2.400 m.a.s.l.

This captivating excursion to Chaxa Lagoon features vivid colors and flamingos. The trip south begins with a visit to Toconao, a secluded village and desert oasis which was built using soft white stone. We'll wander through its main plaza, church adorned with an 18th-century bell tower and artisan workshops.

Our final destination is the Los Flamencos National Reserve at Chaxa Lagoon in the Salar de Atacama, home not only to various flamingo species but also to Andean Gulls, Highland Chorlos and more. As we walk through this watery haven, you'll want to reach for your camera and capture this landscape of vast open skies, imposing peaks along the horizon and sunset colors on the Salar de Atacama, mirrored in Chaxa Lagoon, as flamingos fly across the sky.



10. Cejar Lagoon

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Half day



Transfer: 35 min.

Cycling: 2 hrs.

Altitude: 2.400 m.a.s.l.

This is a morning excursion to make the most of the temperature at this time of day. Depart the hotel heading south by bike towards the edge of the Atacama Salt Flat. The terrain is mainly flat and slightly uneven in places. On arrival at the Cejar lagoon, the view of the thick salt crust which has formed around the water hole is amazing. The salt concentration is incredibly high here and one floats in the spectacularly clear waters. Following a swim and a rest, we return to the hotel by vehicle.