



TREKKING CHILE – BOLIVIA 2011

INVITATION TO TRAVEL:

This exciting trekking program takes place in the extraordinary scenery of the Chilean high-plateau and the Bolivian region of South-Lipez, among colourful lagoons, boiling geysers and active volcanoes. You will have the chance to cross the celebrated Uyuni salt flat and enjoy a warm thermal bath at 3500m above sea level. One of the highlights of this tour is the ascent of volcano Uturunco (6080m), which does not require being an expert mountaineer since it can be considered a high-altitude hike.

Duration: 14 days/13 nights

Type of trip: trekking

Lodging: hostel/hotel/tent/refuge

Difficulty level: intermediate

Recommended period: this trip can be made all the year round. The best period is from March to November. *Private Departures.*

Code of the trip: SN / TRK 03



ITINERARY:

1st DAY: CALAMA (IN) – SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA

Reception at the airport of Calama and transfer to San Pedro de Atacama (2500 m). Lunch. In the afternoon short walk (4 hours approximately) in the Salty mountain range, which is 23 millions years old. We can observe some impressive mineral sculptures made of salt and clay, carved by the wind and the rain. Arrival at the Moon Valley, where we enjoy an amazing sunset. It's a superb spectacle! Return to San Pedro. Overnight in HOSTEL.

Included meals: Lunch

2nd DAY: SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA – SAN BARTOLO

We visit the archaeological museum Padre Gustavo Le Paige, showing the evolution of the people living on this territory for 11.000 years. Some well preserved mummies are also exhibited at the museum. During the visit we will learn about the influence of the Inca culture and the Tiwanaku civilization in this area. Later transfer to the pukara (fortress) of Qitor, dating from the XII century, built by the Incas to prevent the attacks of the Spaniards. This is the starting point of our hike. We hike across a valley that gets narrower and narrower to reach Catarpe, a former administrative centre of the Incas. Hiking in a canyon we arrive at the small village of San Bartolo (2600 m). During the trek we cross the river

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SENDEROS NATIVOS

Calle Capullo n° 2251 – Providencia – Santiago de Chile

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several times. If we are lucky, we can see chinchillas, foxes, partridges... San Bartolo used to be an important centre for the extraction of copper until the 50ties, when its inhabitants used to work in the nearby copper mines (2 hours away from the village) and also lived on agriculture. (4 hours hike approximately). Overnight in TENT.

Included Meals: Breakfast / Box-lunch / Dinner

3rd DAY: SAN BARTOLO – RIO GRANDE

We walk among shrubs and straw bundles (used for the roofs of the houses) and reach the ruins of the former copper mines. We climb to the top of the canyon, a very dry area where we can see huge cactus: we are in the heart of the desert! Hiking across the canyon we arrive at the village of Rio Grande, inhabited by approximately 100 persons and known for the typical houses with roofs of straw. In spite of being located at 3200 metres above sea level, Rio Grande is an agricultural village, surrounded by terrace cultivations (garlic, onions, potatoes...). Overnight in TENT.

Included Meals: Breakfast / Box-lunch / Dinner

4th DAY: RIO GRANDE – MACHUCA

We leave the village of Rio Grande behind and follow a path that is still used by the shepherds and their llamas. On the way we can see giant cactus, herds of llamas and some rare cultivation of quinoa. This goosfoot native to the Andes is a very resistant plant that can be cultivated between 0 and 3900 metres above sea level and that can bear temperatures between 1 and 35°C. We arrive at the hamlet of Machuca (4000 m), with just 10 houses with roofs of straw and walls of adobe. Only a couple of families live in Machuca all the year round breeding llamas. (6 hours hike approximately). Overnight in TENT.

Included Meals: Breakfast / Box-lunch / Dinner

5th DAY: MACHUCA - TATIO GEYSERS – SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA

Early in the morning we hike to the Tatio Geysers (4320 m) located on a chalky plateau and surrounded by volcanoes. The scenery at sunrise is unique, with steaming vents and 10 meters high geysers! Breakfast among the vents. Afterwards we continue to Puritama hot springs (3500 m) to enjoy a pleasant thermal bath. Short hike from the Puritama hot springs to the hamlet of Guatín (approximately 1 hour and a half). Transfer to San Pedro de Atacama. Free time. Overnight in HOSTEL.

Included Meals: Breakfast / Box-lunch

6th DAY: SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA – LAGUNA VERDE

In the morning we drive to the Bolivian border of Hito Cajón. After the customs checks we enter Bolivia and hike to Laguna Verde (green lagoon) located at the base of volcano Licancabur (5916 m). We walk to a viewpoint bordering the lagoon and observe the changing tones of the water. Possibility to have a thermal bath in the nearby hot springs (2 hours hike approximately). Overnight in REFUGE or in TENT according to availability.

Included Meals: Breakfast / Box-lunch / Dinner

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- 7th DAY:** **LAGUNA VERDE – LAGUNA COLORADA - QUETENA**
In the morning departure towards the village of Quetena. On the way we stop at the Damas Valley (also called Rocks of Dali) and reach the Polques hot springs where we can enjoy a bath. We continue to the geyser "Sol de Mañana (4850m) with infernal steaming vents and a strong smell of sulphuric vapours, before we reach Laguna Colorada (red lagoon, 4278m). Its intense red colour derives from the seaweeds and plankton living in these waters, so rich in minerals. The view of the numerous flamingos in this sector is unforgettable (in this place we can watch the 3 species living in Latin America: the Chilean, the James and the Andean flamingos). Arrival at Quetena in the evening. Overnight in REFUGE or in TENT according to availability.
Included Meals: Breakfast / Box-lunch / Dinner
- 8th DAY:** **QUETENA – VOLCANO UTURUNCO (6080 m) – QUETENA**
This is the day of the ascent of Volcano Uturunco (6080 m). After a short transfer (1 hour approximately) we arrive at the starting point of this high-altitude hike. According to the conditions of snow we can either climb to the summit or reach a viewpoint located at 5700 m above sea level. (approximately 4-5 hours hike). From the top we have an incredible view of the surroundings lagoons. Return to Quetena. Overnight in REFUGE or in TENT according to availability.
Included Meals: Breakfast / Box-lunch / Dinner
- 9th DAY :** **QUETENA – SAN JUAN**
Today is a more relaxed day. Transfer to the village of San Juan. On the way we stop at "Valle de las Rocas" (rocky valley) for a walk. Arrival at San Juan. Overnight in REFUGE.
Included Meals: Breakfast / Box-lunch / Dinner
- 10th DAY:** **SAN JUAN – UYUNI SALT FLAT - JIRIRA**
Full day excursion in the Uyuni salt flat. We start with a visit of the Galaxia cave, with numerous cactuses and stalagmites. We will also visit an ancient cemetery and learn about the burial habits of the former inhabitants of this region. Shortly after, we enter the Uyuni salt flat (3650 m), whose surface is more that 12.000 km². Visit of Pescado and Incahuasi islands, situated in the heart of the salt flat and famous for their enormous cactus. The amazing view on this white sea is definitely one of the highlights of the tour and a memorable experience. We hide to the village Jirira (3650 m) in the northern part of the salt flat. Overnight in REFUGE.
Included Meals: Breakfast / Box-lunch / Dinner
- 11th DAY:** **JIRIRA – COLCHANE**
We suggest to the most curious to wake up at dawn and see the sunrise on the salt flat! Today we leave Bolivia and return to Chile crossing Uyuni and Coipasa salt flats. Arrival at the Chilean village of Colchane (3730 m). Overnight in HOSTEL.
Included Meals: Breakfast / Box-lunch / Dinner



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- 12th DAY: COLCHANE – SURIRE SALT FLAT**
We leave Colchane behind and visit another area of the Chilean high-plateau: the well-known Surire Salt Flat (4200 m, 17.500 hectares). We cross the Volcano Isluga National Park, passing by the homonymous village (3900 m) and volcano (5530 m, with volcanic vents). Arrival at Surire salt flat. This name means Ñandu (ostrich) in Aymara (native language). On the salt flat we can watch the 3 species of flamingos living in Latin America: the Chilean, the James and the Andean, as well as ostriches, vicuñas (ruminants) and vizcachas (rodents). Possibility to enjoy a relaxing bath at Pollequere hot springs on the southern border of the salt flat. Overnight in TENT or REFUGE (according to availability).
Included Meals: Breakfast / Box-lunch / Dinner
- 13th DAY: SURIRE SALT FLAT - PUTRE**
Free time in the morning to watch the local fauna and enjoy the natural scenery. Then we continue to Lauca National Park and the famous Lake Chungara (4500 m), surrounded by snow-covered volcanoes, like the majestic Volcano Parinacota (6330 m), Volcano Pomerape (6240 m) and Sajama (highest peak of Bolivia, 6542 m). We can hike in the sector of Lagoon Cotacotani (approximately 3 hours), famous for its emerald waters and surrounded by “bofedales” (wetland) with herds of llamas and alpacas (ruminant mammals). Visit of the village of Parinacota (4300 m), its church and handicrafts market. Transfer to Putre. Overnight in HOTEL SIMPLE.
Included Meals: Breakfast / Box-lunch
- 14th DAY: PUTRE – ARICA (OUT)**
We leave the high-plateau behind and head to the Pacific coast and the town of Arica. On the way we cross the Lluta valley and see numerous geoglyphs. Arica is the northernmost town of Chile, its climate is warm all the year round. Transfer to the airport. **END OF OUR SERVICES.**
Included Meals: Breakfast / Lunch



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EQUIPMENT LIST:

CLOTHING:

- Sun hat
- Wool or pile ski hat
- Pile lining. Jacket or sweatshirt
- Waterproof jacket / Gore-Tex
- T-shirts
- Gloves
- Trekking trousers
- Shorts
- Socks
- Underwear
- Swimsuit and towel
- Trekking shoes
- Tennis shoes, sandals

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

- Sleeping bag (-10°C) for the nights in tent and refuge
- Day pack (30-40 lt)
- Telescopic ski-poles
- Sun glasses
- Head lamp (spare bulbs and batteries).
- Sun screen: Sun cream and lip screen.
- Canteen.
- Personal First Aid Kit.
- Personal Toiletries: wet towels, soap, etc.
- Photographic equipment

ENJOY THE TRIP!



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RATES:

02 PERSONS:	US\$ 5650 p/person
03 PERSONS:	US\$ 4100 p/person
04 PERSONS:	US\$ 3630 p/person
05 PERSONS:	US\$ 3110 p/person
06 PERSONS:	US\$ 2960 p/person
07 PERSONS:	US\$ 2900 p/person
08-09 PERSONS:	US\$ 2830 p/person
10 PERSONS:	US\$ 2650 p/person
11 PERSONS:	US\$ 2610 p/person
12 PERSONS:	US\$ 2480 p/person

Single room supplement: US\$ 180 (except for the nights at
Refuges in Bolivia, Chile and hostel at Colchane)
Single tent supplement: US\$ 30

Included in the rate:

- Bilingual guide(s) (English/Spanish/French speaking). Guide in other languages subject to availability
-Transportation by private vehicle(s) with driver(s) according to the number of passengers and the itinerary, In Bolivia 5 participants per jeep
- Accommodation in the mentioned hotels/hosterías (hostelries) or of similar category according availability (DOUBLE/TRIPLE room basis). <i>Local standard.</i>
- Accommodation in refuges/hostels as mentioned (SHARED room basis). <i>Local standard.</i>
- Camping equipment (DOUBLE sleeping tent, kitchen equipment, mattress...)
- Meals mentioned in the program
- Drinks during the camp meals and box-lunch
- Park, sites and Museum fees as mentioned in the program

NOT included in the rate:

- Flights and taxes
- Meals not mentioned in the program (consider approximately US\$ 15-20 /meal/person)
- Alcoholic and soft drinks during the meals at restaurants/hotels
- Single room/tent supplement
- Personal equipment
- Travel insurance
- Tips
- Services NOT mentioned in the program

The rates are valid until the 31/12/2011 except in case of a big variation in the USD exchange conditions in Chile and/or Bolivia. Thanks for reading our general sales conditions.

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