



TRANS ANDEAN

Chile-Argentina-Bolivia-Peru

2011

INVITATION TO TRAVEL

Awesome trip across 4 enchanting countries that will let you discover the colours and contrasts of their High-Plateau: the pure white of the salt flats against incredibly blue skies; the red and orange tones of the canyons contrasted by green, turquoise and even red lagoons: an awe-inspiring landscape that also keeps some well-preserved secrets of ancient civilizations and priceless archaeological treasures. The Atacama Desert (Chile) will welcome you at the beginning of the circuit with its natural jewels, while Argentina will surprise you with its colonial atmosphere and superb multicoloured peaks. We will then continue to the Uyuni Salt Flat (Bolivia), one of the most breathtaking sceneries on Earth. Peru will finally take you back to the glorious days of the Incas, a proud civilization that left us an amazing testimony of its passage through history: the extraordinary site of Machu Picchu.

Duration: 30 days/29 nights

Type of trip: discovery

Lodging: hotel/hostal (hostel) / refuge

Difficulty Level: for the general public

Recommended period: from April to November

Code of the trip: SN / DIS 03



ITINERARY:

1st DAY: SANTIAGO (IN)

Reception at Santiago airport and transfer to the hotel. Free afternoon. Overnight at HOTEL ALCALA DEL RIO (3*) or of similar category according to availability. **Meals not included.**

2nd DAY: SANTIAGO - CALAMA – SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA

Transfer to the airport to take the flight to Calama. Reception at Calama airport and transfer to San Pedro de Atacama (2400 m). Lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon short walk (2-4 hours approximately, not difficult at all) 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! Overnight at HOTEL DUNAS (2*) or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch



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3rd DAY: **SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA**

Transfer to Puritama hot springs (3500 m) to enjoy a pleasant thermal bath. Pic-nic at the hot springs. In the afternoon we visit the pukara (fortress) of Quito, dating from the XII century, and the archaeological museum Padre Gustave Le Paige, showing the evolution of the people living on this territory for 11.000 years. During the visit we will learn about the influence of the Inca culture and the Tiwanaku civilization in this area. Overnight at HOTEL DUNAS (2*) or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch

- ***This day the order of the excursion may change according to the intensity of sunlight depending on the period of the year.***

4th DAY: **SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA – ATACAMA SALT FLAT – MISCANTI & MIÑIQUES LAGOONS – SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA**

Morning departure to the Atacama salt flat, the biggest in Chile with more than 3.000 km². The air is here extremely dry, which makes the view perfectly clear: it's actually possible to see the other side of the salt flat, approximately 70 kms away. Under the salt flat there is a lake, covered by a thick and rough crust of salt, containing 40% of the world's lithium reserves (mineral used in some hi-Tec industries, and exploited in the southern sector of the salt flat). We continue to the magnificent lagoons Miñiques y Miscanti (4200 m) and the small village of Socaire. Transfer back to San Pedro de Atacama visiting on the way Toconao, an oasis in the middle of the desert known for the production of a huge variety of fruits (due to the lack of arsenic in its waters). At the entrance of the village there is a dam and also two cultivation areas: a plain one, which is a sunny soil where fruits are produced; and the Jerez canyon, narrower and more shadowed, where the runoff flows. The pattern of the cultivation area is the typical pre-Hispanic, made of hundreds of little irregular farms, with a common irrigation system. Visit of the small village and of its interesting constructions built with a local stone called "liparita". We can walk in the streets, especially the oldest ones in the western part, and ask permission to visit some beautiful and leafy gardens. We can also meet the artisans to learn how they make the typical stone figures. Return to San Pedro de Atacama. Overnight at HOTEL DUNAS (2*) or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Lunch or Box lunch

5th DAY: **SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA – TATIO GEYSERS – SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA**

Early morning departure for the excursion to the Tatio Geysers (4300 m). The scenery at sunrise is unique, with steaming vents and 10 meters high geysers! Breakfast among the vents. Afterwards transfer to Calama visiting on the way the village of Caspana: surrounded by fertile valleys and cultivation terraces, it is a very typical village for the architecture in a local stone called liparita and known for the production of flowers and vegetables. Afterwards we visit Lasana and its Pukará (fortress) and the village of Chiu-Chiu, whose nice church is one of the most ancient in Chile. Return to San Pedro de Atacama. Overnight at HOTEL DUNAS (2*)



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or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box Lunch or Lunch

6th DAY: SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA – JAMA PASS – PURMAMARCA

Departure in the morning towards Argentina across the Jama pass. On the way to the Argentinean customs we can observe the majestic volcano Licancabur (5916 m), the "Testigos de la Pakana" (huge stone columns eroded by the wind, also called the Moais of Tara), as well as the Aguas Calientes and Quisquiro salt flats. After the customs formalities, we continue across the Argentinean high-plateau, among colourful mountains, lagoons and salt flats. We stop at "Salinas Grandes" salt flat (3450 m) to observe the way the workers extract salt and see the local handicrafts. We drive downhill (sector of Lupan) to Purmamarca (2190 m), on the foot of the "seven colours mountain". Overnight at HOSTEL HUAIRA HUASI or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch

7th DAY: PURMAMARCA – TILCARA – SALTA

We visit the village of Purmamarca, with nice houses made of adobe, a charming colonial church, and the main square where every day craftsmen and artists exhibit their works. Afterwards we make a short walk in the sector of the "seven colours mountain", a unique scenery due to the orange and red tones of the rocks. We continue to the village of Tilcara and visit its pukara, a fortress built approximately 900 years ago by the Tilcaras, a tribe of the native people called Omaguaca. The small village is strategically located on top of the Humahuaca canyon, in the province of Jujuy, an ideal place to prevent the attacks, since it dominates the whole area. About 60 constructions, built in the glorious days of this village, have been restored and can be visited. Transfer to Salta (1187 m), also called "la linda" (the beautiful), characterized by the pre-Hispanic architecture and a colonial atmosphere. We visit the centre of the town: the square "9 de Julio", San Francisco cathedral, and other attractions. Overnight at HOTEL LA POSADA DEL MARQUES (3*) or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast /Box lunch or Lunch

8th DAY: SALTA – CANYON OF CONCHAS – CAFAYATE

We leave Salta behind and continue to Cafayate crossing the canyon of Conchas, on a road bordered by fields of tobacco and corn. We pass by little colonial villages such as Cerrillos and La Merced. Then we enter a totally different universe: arid and mineral. The scenery and atmosphere is that of some old Western movies. This is definitely one of the most spectacular places of the northwest of Argentina. The erosion carved curious geological formations: the Obelisk, the toad, the amphitheatre, the Devil's gorge... We spend the night at Cafayate (1660 m), a nice town encircled by vineyards, renowned for the production of the best white wine of the country, the famous "Torrontes". Overnight at HOTEL LOS SAUCES (3*) or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch

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Calle Capullo n° 2251 – Providencia – Santiago de Chile

Tel: (00 56) 2 8973760 / 61 / 62

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9th DAY: CAFAYATE – CACHI

We can not leave Cafayate without visiting one of its wineries. Afterwards, we continue across the Calchaquies valleys, stopping on the way at several villages, such as San Carlos, with a lovely church built in 1790, famous for the icons of worship brought from the “Upper Peru” (today Bolivia) and declared National Historical Monument since 1941. In Molinos (2020 m) we visit the reserve of “Vicuñas” (wild south-American ruminant, related to the Guanaco but smaller), the handicraft market and church. We also visit Seclantas (2100m), famous for textile manufacturing and birthplace of the typical “poncho” of Salta (a single large sheet of fabric with an opening for the head and sometimes for the arms). We spend the night at Cachi (2280 m) situated at the base of the mountain “Nevado de Cachi” (6700 m). This legendary town is known for its white constructions, the houses made of adobe, and the cobblestone streets. Cachi means “salt” in Quechua (native language) since the natives thought that the summit of the mountain (Nevado) was a salt flat, while it is a snow-covered peak. Overnight at HOTEL EL CORTIJO or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch

10th DAY: CACHI – SALTA

We visit the archaeological museum in Cachi before we drive back to Salta. On the way we cross Los Cardones National Park (where some cactuses are more than 3 m high), and pass by “Piedra del Molino” (huge granite rock of unknown origin) before descending across “Encantado” valley and appreciate the suggestive figures carved by the wind and the rain in the mountains. Arrival at Salta and overnight at HOTEL LA POSADA DEL MARQUES (3*) or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch

11th DAY: SALTA – LA QUIACA

We continue across the Humahuaca valley to La Quiaca, small town situated near the Bolivian border. On the way we visit the village of Humahuaca (2940 m). With narrow and cobblestone streets, adobe houses and nice street lamps, it was one of the most important commercial centres of “Upper Peru” (today Bolivia) until the end of the XIX century. It is world famous for the impressive canyon of Humahuaca, declared World Heritage by UNESCO: a stunning landscape crossed by river Grande, with interesting archaeological sites. Arrival at La Quiaca and overnight at HOSTEL YAVI or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch or Lunch /Dinner

12th DAY: LA QUIACA – UYUNI

We enter Bolivia passing by the little village of Villazon. Today’s destination is Uyuni. On the way we visit Tupiza (2950 m), small town surrounded by the Chichas mountain range. It is a charming multicoloured landscape of rocks, hills and canyons, evoking the



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atmosphere of the *Far West*; in fact it is located in the heart of the lands of Butch Cassidy and the Kid. Arrival at Uyuni (3650 m), situated on the border of the homonymous salt flat and overnight at HOTEL MAGIA DE UYUNI (2*) or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch or Lunch

13th DAY: UYUNI – UYUNI SALT FLAT – JIRIRA

Full day excursion to Uyuni salt flat. First stop at the village of Colchani, where we will learn about the way of extracting and processing the salt. We enter into the Uyuni salt flat (3650 m) whose surface is more than 12000 km². We visit the Incahuasi Island, in the heart of the salt flat, and its huge cactuses. The amazing view on this white sea is definitely one of the highlights of the tour and a memorable experience. We continue to the village of Jirira situated North of the salt flat. Overnight at a REFUGE or similar.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch / Dinner

14th DAY: JIRIRA – SAN JUAN

Possibility to make a short hike (2 hours approximately, not difficult at all) to the "Pucara de Chillima" (fortress), to enjoy a panoramic view of the Uyuni salt flat. Box-lunch in this breathtaking scenery. Afterwards, transfer by vehicle to Pescado Island, which is wilder and less visited than Incahuasi Island. We will later hide to 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. Arrival at San Juan (3700 m) and overnight at a REFUGE or similar.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch / Dinner

15th DAY: SAN JUAN –LAGOON COLORADA

We visit some interesting sites that were relevant during the war between Chile and Bolivia. We continue on the high plateau passing by different lagoons: Coñapa, Hedionda, Chiarkota, Honda and Ramadita where flocks of flamingos, seagulls and ducks can be seen and photographed. Arrival at Laguna Colorada (4200 m). Overnight at a REFUGE or similar.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch / Dinner

16th DAY: LAGOON COLORADA – LAGOON VERDE – LAGOON COLORADA

Early morning departure to visit the "arbol de piedra" (stone tree) situated in the Siloli desert.). We continue towards the impressive geyser "Sol de Mañana" (4850 m) with its infernal steaming vents and the strong smell of the sulphuric vapours. We hide to Polque hot springs (possibility to take a bath), pass by Damas valley (or Dali rocks), and arrive at Laguna Verde (green lagoon) on the foot of volcano Licancabur (5916 m). Afterwards we visit the famous Laguna Colorada (red lagoon), where we can admire the 3 species of flamingos living in the area (Chilean, James and Andean). Return to Laguna Colorada. Overnight at a REFUGE or similar.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch / Dinner



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- 17th DAY:** **LAGOON COLORADA – UYUNI**
Last day in the South Lipez. In the morning, possibility to drive to Lagoon Colorada to have a different view (by morning light). We continue to the town of Uyuni, visiting on the way the village of San Cristobal and its church. Overnight at HOTEL MAGIA DE UYUNI (2*) or of similar category according to availability.
Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch
- 18th DAY:** **UYUNI – ORURO**
We drive to the town of Oruro (3702 m), considered the capital of the Bolivian folklore for the colourful carnival that takes place every year in February. Overnight at HOTEL VILLA REAL SAN FELIPE (3*) or of similar category according to availability.
Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch or Lunch
- 19th DAY:** **ORURO – LA PAZ**
We continue to La Paz (3632 m), main city of the country and important commercial, financial and industrial centre. It is the administrative capital and also seat of the government of Bolivia, being Sucre the constitutional and judicial capital. We visit the city with its marvellous colonial architecture. Overnight at HOSTEL NAIRA or of similar category according to availability.
Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch or Lunch
- 20th DAY:** **LA PAZ**
Free day (guide and vehicle at disposal). Possibility to visit the Moon valley, Animas valley, the cemetery...
Overnight at HOSTEL NAIRA or of similar category according to availability.
Included meal: Breakfast
- 21st DAY:** **LA PAZ – TIAHUANACO - COPACABANA**
We leave the effervescent city of La Paz and head to the Pre-Incan site of Tiahuanaco (3840 m), an ancient ceremonial centre located south of Lake Titicaca. It was built over 1000 years ago by an unknown civilization. Most archaeologists estimate that it dates from 600 BC, and that it is the work of a glorious civilization. Visit of the main buildings: the Sun Gate, the Moon Gate, and Kalasaya. Transfer to Copacabana (3840 m) located on the shores of Lake Titicaca. Overnight at HOTEL GLORIA COPACABANA (3*) or of similar category according to availability.
Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch or Lunch
- 22nd DAY:** **COPACABANA – ISLA DEL SOL - COPACABANA**
We sail by catamaran to reach the famous "Isla del Sol" (Sun Island): according to the tradition it is the cradle of the Inca empire. We visit this mythic island, its ruins and different viewpoints on Lake Titicaca. Return to Copacabana. Overnight at HOTEL GLORIA COPACABANA (3*) or of similar category according to availability.
Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch



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23th DAY: COPACABANA -PUNO

Transfer to the Peruvian town of Puno. Overnight at HOTEL Balsa Inn (2*) or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch / Dinner

24th DAY: PUNO - CUSCO

We leave Puno behind and drive among mountains and high plateaus up to Cusco. We enter the heart of the Inca Empire! We cross the Raya pass (4338 m) and start our descent to the Sicuani valley. On the way we visit Racchi, the temple of Wiracocha, creator divinity of the Incas. The site includes several houses, terraces, temples, fountains "phaqchas" and food warehouses called "golgas". An Inca trail protected by walls leads to Qollasuyo (Puno). Afterwards we visit the Andahuayllillas chapel, which has been compared with the Sistine chapel of Rome for its beautiful murals. Late in the afternoon, arrival at Cusco (3350 m), cradle of the Inca Empire. Overnight at HOTEL AMARU (2*) or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch or Lunch

25th DAY: CUSCO - SACSABUAMAN - CUSCO

Cusco, the ancient capital of the Inca Empire, offers a harmonious architectural mix, where the Inca stone constructions coexist with Spanish baroque churches and palaces. We visit the site of Sacsahuaman: large esplanade of stones overlooking the city of Cusco. Free afternoon to take a walk along the typical San Blas streets, to visit the cathedral and the Temple of the Sun, or to take a rest on a terrace under the arches of the Arms Square, or to go shopping. Overnight at HOTEL AMARU (2*) or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch or Lunch

26th DAY: CUSCO – SACRED VALLEY: CHINCHEROS - MORAY - MARAS SALT FLAT – PISAQ - OLLANTAYTAMBO.

Departure to Chincheros, a village that is a sort of living museum where the inhabitants still practice the barter and live in the same houses of their forefathers. We continue to the concentric terraces of Moray, before we reach the spectacular salt flats of Maras, with thousands of evaporation cylinders that produce amazing refraction effects. Afterwards we head to Písaq where we can go shopping at the handicraft market. Late in the afternoon we arrive at the village of Ollantaytambo. Overnight at HOTEL TIKA WASI (2*) or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch / Dinner

27th DAY: OLLANTAYTAMBO – AGUAS CALIENTES

In the morning we visit the village of Ollantaytambo and its fortress that protects the entrance of the Sacred Valley. Afterwards we take the train to the small village of Aguas Calientes. Overnight at HOTEL ROYAL INTI (2*) or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch / Cena



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28th DAY: AGUAS CALIENTES – MACHU PICCHU - CUSCO

Early in the morning we take the regular bus up to Machu Picchu. Without a doubt, it is the most impressive pre-Columbian site of the continent. The bravest could climb to the summit of the Huayna Picchu to have a panoramic view of the site. In the afternoon we take the train to Ollantaytambo. Transfer to Cusco. Overnight at HOTEL AMARU (2*) or of similar category according to availability.

Included meals: Breakfast / Box lunch

29th DAY: CUSCO - LIMA

Morning transfer to the airport and flight to Lima. Reception and transfer **without guide** to the hotel. In the afternoon, guided city tour (gold museum, Miraflores neighborhood,...). Overnight at HOTEL BELLAVISTA (2*) or of similar category according to availability.

Included meal: Breakfast

30st DAY: LIMA (OUT)

Transfer to the airport **without guide** to take the return flight.

Included meal: Breakfast.

END OF OUR SERVICES.



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EQUIPMENT LIST:

CLOTHING:

- Sun hat
- Wool hat
- Pile lining. Jacket or sweatshirt
- Wind stopper Jacket. Gore-Tex
- T-shirts
- Gloves
- Trekking comfortable trousers
- Shorts
- Socks
- Underwear
- Swimsuit and towel
- Trekking shoes
- Tennis shoes, sandals.

ADDITIONAL ACCESSORIES:

- Day pack (30-40 lt)
- Sleeping bag for the nights in refuge (in Bolivia)
- Sung glasses
- Sun screen: Sun cream and lip screen.
- Personal First Aid Kit.
- Personal Toiletries: wet towels, soap, etc.
- Photographic equipment

ENJOY THE TRIP!



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RATES

02	PERSONS:	US\$ 10890 p/persona
03	PERSONS:	US\$ 8170 p/persona
04	PERSONS:	US\$ 6990 p/persona
05	PERSONS:	US\$ 6790 p/persona
06	PERSONS:	US\$ 6030 p/persona
07	PERSONS:	US\$ 5590 p/persona
08-09	PERSONS:	US\$ 5195 p/persona
10	PERSONS:	US\$ 5090 p/persona
11	PERSONS:	US\$ 4890 p/persona
12	PERSONS:	US\$ 4690 p/persona

Single room supplement : US\$ 800 (except for the nights in refuge)

The rates include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation in the mentioned or similar hotels/hostels (DOUBLE/TRIPLE standard room basis). Refuges (shared bathroom). Local standard.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local bilingual guide(s) (English/French/Spanish speaking) during the whole program except for the transfers in/out in Lima. Guides in other languages according to availability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private transportation by vehicle(s) with driver(s) (according to the number of persons) during the whole program except between Aguas Calientes and Machu Picchu (regular bus)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meals as mentioned in the program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drinks with box-lunch
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrance fees, boat and train tickets as mentioned in the program

The rates DO NOT include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flights and taxes (international flights and national)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meals NOT mentioned in the program (consider approximately US\$ 15-20/meal/pers)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcoholic and soft drinks during the meals at restaurant/hotel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single room supplement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Insurance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services NOT mentioned in the program

The rates are valid from the 01/01/2011 until the 31/12/2011 except in case of a big variation in the USD exchange conditions in Chile, Argentina, Bolivia and/or Peru. Thanks for reading our general sales conditions.

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