



WONDERS OF CHILE

Journey the entire length of Chile and venture into a land of wild extremes, from the vast Atacama Desert to the rugged wilderness of Patagonia.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Latin America, Chile



12 days from AU\$19,540 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Perfectly positioned between the ocean and the Andes, Chile flaunts natural wonders on an epic scale, with an incredibly diverse landscape of parched dunes, fertile valleys, great volcanoes, ancient forests, massive glaciers and breathtaking fjords. From charismatic and arty Santiago and the ethereal moonscapes of the Atacama Desert to the soul-stirring wilderness of Patagonia and vineyards of the famous Maipo Valley, this immersive Chilean adventure is truly unforgettable.

Journey Highlights

- Hike to the world-renowned Gray Glacier in the Torres del Paine
- Horse ride through Cerro Guido Estancia with panoramic views of the Paine Massif
- Hear Chilean stories of the sky on an Atacama stargazing odyssey
- Feast your eyes on the Tatio Geysers of the Atacama Desert
- Uncover Chilean history and art in vibrant Santiago
- Sampled the renowned wines of the Maipo Valley, one of the Chile's oldest and most prestigious wine regions



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Santiago

Welcome to Santiago, a sophisticated metropolis with grand architecture, expansive museums and top-notch gastronomy. Your A&K representative will meet you at the airport and escort you to your luxury accommodation in the prestigious El Golf neighbourhood. Ease into local time as you discover the neighbourhood's luxury shopping and world-class restaurants, alternatively seek out the glass-roofed wellness centre for post-flight relaxation.

Ritz-Carlton Santiago

Day 2: Santiago

Today, get to know the city on an expertly guided walking tour. Discover the historical evolution of the city at the Museo Chileno de Arte Precolombino housed in the former customs house. Wander around the quirky Plaza de Armas seeing artists at work, friendly chess games and street performances, before exploring the colourful central market and the artistic streets of Lastarria.

Ritz-Carlton Santiago / Meals: B

Day 3: Santiago - Calama - San Pedro de Atacama

This morning transfer to the airport for your onward flight to Calama. From Calama you'll enjoy a transfer to the oasis town of San Pedro de Atacama, in the heart of the Atacama Desert. This afternoon, meet your lodge excursion leader who will discuss a detailed itinerary of guided tours and active excursions in the coming days. Explore this region's incredible diversity, from salt lakes, to shooting geysers, lunar flats, red canyons and snow-capped volcanoes. Choose from world-class hiking tours to desert bike rides, horseback adventures to volcano climbs.

Tierra Atacama / Meals: BD

Days 4-5: San Pedro de Atacama

Today and tomorrow are yours to enjoy the many active tours available from the lodge. Perhaps feast your eyes on the Tatio Geysers at sunrise, one of the world's most impressive geothermal sites, hear traditional Chilean stories of the sky on an Atacama stargazing odyssey, climb the Lascar Volcano or bike ride through Death Valley; the options are endless. Alternatively head into town for laid-back locals, beautiful handcrafts and music-filled eateries.

Tierra Atacama / Meals: BLD**Day 6: San Pedro de Atacama - Calama - Maipo Valley**

Transfer to the airport for your journey back to Santiago. From Santiago, you'll enjoy a transfer to the Maipo Valley, considered the most traditional – and claimed by some to be the oldest – wine region in Chile. It is renowned for its French-inspired wineries and famed for its rich cabernet sauvignon and carmenere. Its reputation for producing outstanding wine is shaped by its unique terroir of alluvial soils and temperate Mediterranean climate, as well as its proximity to the coastal mountain range.

Settle into your elegant vineyard hotel. Situated within the former summer retreat of the winery's founder, the 19th-century Casa Real stands as a revered historical monument, nestled amid a sprawling 40-hectare park.

Enjoy some time at leisure before a private thematic sunset wine tasting.

Hotel Casa Real / Meals: BD**Day 7: Maipo Valley**

This morning visit the Ethnographic Museo Andino showcasing approximately 3,000 archaeological and ethnographic artifacts created by the Pre-Columbian peoples who inhabited these lands, as well as works from the mixed cultures of Chile and Latin America. Explore traditional customs, rituals, and craftsmanship, gaining insight into the unique way of life that thrives amid the majestic Andes Mountains.

Following lunch, spend time at leisure relaxing or exploring the abundant parkland surrounding your hotel, or alternatively you may choose to visit some of the other wineries in the Maipo Valley.

Hotel Casa Real / Meals: BLD

Day 8: Santiago - Torres del Paine

Take to the skies again for Punta Arenas, where you'll transfer to the extraordinary Torres del Paine, South America's finest national park. Here, guanacos — a wild species of llama — roam the open steppe, and Andean condors soar through the mountain peaks. Settle into your luxurious accommodation, right on the doorstep of emerald forests, crystal glaciers and roaring rivers. This afternoon meet with a qualified guide to discuss the excursions you can enjoy through Patagonia in the coming days.

Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa / Meals: BD

Days 9-11: Torres del Paine

Spend three days exploring this soul-stirring wilderness, your way. Your adventure options are plentiful. Trek forest trails and be amazed by panoramic views of geographic formations that are millions of years old. Spy a variety of animals, including guanaco, condors, foxes and flamingos. Seek out ancient cave paintings and hidden waterfalls. And watch crystal-blue icebergs float around the Grey Glacier. Alternatively, relax in the infinity pool with a stunning Torres view, indulge in a sumptuous spa and outdoor hot tub, or follow one of the walking routes to explore the lakeside setting.

Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa / Meals: BLD

Day 12: Torres del Paine - Puerto Natales - Depart Santiago

Fly back to Santiago where your adventure ends. Alternatively, cross over to El Calafate in Argentina and discover more of Patagonia.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

The Ritz-Carlton Santiago



Located in the refined neighbourhood of El Golf, the Ritz-Carlton Santiago is the first Ritz-Carlton in South America and is an impressive one. Rooms are very spacious and sumptuously decorated. There are ample opportunities for wining and dining both within the hotel and in the immediate surrounds. Upper floors have spectacular views of the Andes and additional facilities include a glass-roofed spa and wellness centre with an indoor lap pool, modern fitness centre and menu of massage, facial and body treatments.

Tierra Atacama



Tierra Atacama is a boutique hotel on the edge of San Pedro de Atacama. Architecturally, this hotel is superb, mixing the old and the unashamedly modern. Built on the site of the old cattle corral, it retains the corral's ancient adobe walls at its entrance, preserving them as a monument to the history of the area.

But beyond those traditional walls, the design is a thoroughly modern take on traditional themes. Stone walls support angular, asymmetric buildings, where slick roof lines stand above huge expanses of glass - whilst the beautifully landscaped gardens hide an abundance of water features and secret relaxation areas.

Inside, the hotel is an uber-modern version of rustic chic, where clean lines are softened by colourful local fabrics, stripped back wooden floors and designer furniture. The rooms continue the theme, offering spacious, uniquely styled accommodation packed with luxurious designer touches. Local cultural influences are in evidence throughout, whilst daily excursions to sample local landscapes, culture and wildlife are included.

Why we like it

- All rooms have private terraces and views of the Licancabur volcano
- The modern architecture of this property contrasts superbly with the stark, yet stunning surrounds of the Atacama Desert
- The Uma Spa has indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a Jacuzzi, an outdoor Yoga platform and offers a range of health and beauty treatments
- Other facilities include beautifully landscaped gardens with hidden day beds for

relaxation, a living room, library, bar and terrace.

- The hotel offers a wide range of excursions, enabling guests to experience the area's unique landscapes and cultures up close

Hotel Casa Real



Hotel Casa Real is situated at the foot of the Andes Mountains, in Maipo Valley, an area known for producing Chile's best cabernet sauvignons. This hotel was built in 1880 as a wine estate's manor house. Converted into a hotel in 1996, the historic property offers 16 elegant rooms. Rooms are elegant and airy with soaring ceilings, silky smooth wooden floors and French door leading out onto wide verandas. Each offers beautiful view of the patio or park. Explore the park by mountain bike or enjoy strolling past the ancient trees, roman baths and exquisite sculptures. This tranquil retreat offers the perfect escape from the bustle of the city. Indulge in a gourmet picnic in the grounds. For those who appreciate fine wine, guests can learn the art of winemaking. Blend your own bottle and stash it in your suitcase – an oenophile's perfect keepsake. Make sure to try one of the different pairing menus at Casa Real's renowned restaurant Dona Paula.

Why we like it

- Located on one of Chile's oldest and most traditional vineyards, the Vina Santa Rina
- Surrounded by a private 40-hectare park designed by renowned landscape architect Guillermo Renner
- Perfectly paired cuisine and wine, for an exceptional dining experience
- Discover more than 3,000 cultural pieces in the Andean Museum

Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa



Proof that our team really do know what they are talking about; our product manager (Graeme Bull's) all-time favourite hotel in Chile has stormed into the Conde Nast 2014 Gold List with five stars proudly taking its place in the 'Best Wilderness Hotel' category. Graeme loves it for its design brilliance, jaw-dropping vistas and fantastic service. Conde Nast rave about how brilliant it is to 'come back at dusk to a peppered-beef supper paired with a glass of mineral-rich Matetic syrah, and then to sprawl on a lambs wool sofa and gaze out as the setting sun picks out the Torres' granite-and-basalt peaks'. We'd love to give you the chance to have your say!

Sister property of the beautiful Tierra Atacama, Tierra Patagonia has a sublime location right on the edge of Torres del Paine National Park. The hotel overlooks Lake Sarmiento and the iconic granite peaks of the Torres and surrounded by rugged Patagonian steppe. The expert guides and staff at Tierra Patagonia are committed to providing authentic active experiences in this beautiful location combined with knowledgeable guided access to local flora, fauna, geology, culture and history.

Choose from a range of excursions from trekking to horse-riding included in your stay. Go and spot condors from the top of remote mountains or cycle through the tufty Patagonian steppe searching for the hordes of wild guanaco that roam the plains. After a full day's activities in and around Torres del Paine Park, take a dip in the indoor pool or relax at the Uma Spa. All the rooms have excellent views across the lake towards the Park and across the big big skies. The dining experience here will delight with seafood from the Magellan Straits or try the 'asado' barbeque. The award winning hotel architecture incorporates panoramic windows onto the majestic surroundings and inside radiates elegant snugness; it demands

good times amongst friends and fellow travellers with shared stories of the day around the open fires in the beautiful open plan communal areas.

Why we like it

- Architecture that immerses with landscape and emerges from hillside
- Perfect retreat into tranquillity
- Amazing views over Lake Sarmiento onto Torres del Paine
- Perfect for couples and families
- Wood clad walls emanate warmth and a feeling of being a cosy hideaway

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