

Atacama, Salt Flats & Gauchos

21 Days | La Paz to Santiago



Embark on an overland adventure from La Paz to Santiago, taking in the natural wonders of the Uyuni salt flats and the Altiplano in Bolivia, Chile's spectacular Atacama Desert and Argentina's winelands. You'll also learn how to be a gaucho on a ranch - all in an unforgettable three weeks.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- La Paz - sightsee in the highest administrative capital in the world
- Salar de Uyuni – cross Bolivia's dazzling white salt flats on a thrilling jeep adventure
- Atacama Desert – explore the world's driest desert, marvel at the famous El Tatio Geysers and the lunar-like landscape of the Valley of the Moon
- Altiplano - take an unforgettable journey across the wilds of the Altiplano, a spectacular desolate desert landscape
- Salta - independently explore this charming town in the Andean foothills
- Cafayate - visit the impressive rock formations of 'El Amphiteatro' and 'La Garganta del Diablo'

- Estancia stay - spend three nights at a cattle ranch in Argentina, learn about being a gaucho and go horseriding
- Mendoza - visit Argentina's wine capital and opt to explore this region's famous vineyards
- Santiago - enjoy free time to explore Chile's cosmopolitan capital

What's Included

- 20 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 7 dinners
- 7 nights multishare hostels, 7 nights camping (including 2 nights wild camping) and 6 nights simple hotels
- Services of two crew (tour leaders/drivers) and local guides along the way
- Spend 3 nights at a traditional estancia (ranch) with gauchos
- Visit the impressive rock formations of 'El Amphiteatro' and 'La Garganta del Diablo'.
- Visit the ancient ruins of the indigenous city of Quilmes en route
- Visit the incredible Moon Valley and the El tatio geysers in the mountains above the Atacama desert
- Day trip on the surreal Salar de Uyuni Salt Flats including the Uyuni train graveyard
- Transportation in an overland expedition vehicle and 4x4

What's Not Included

- Items of a personal nature, additional meals and drinks
- International flights and visas
- Tipping – an entirely personal gesture
- Sleeping bag and roll mat - please bring your own for camping

Local Payment

\$840pp, paid in USD

ITINERARY

Day 1 : La Paz



Welcome to Bolivia! Make your own way to our joining hotel in the historical centre of La Paz. Tonight at 6pm we have an important group meeting where you will get the chance to meet others in your group and the crew.

A note on altitude: if you are joining in La Paz, we strongly recommend arriving at least 24 hours before the trip begins to allow additional time to acclimatise. The city sits 3500m above sea level.

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Overnight - La Paz

Day 2 : La Paz

Today is at leisure in La Paz. Perhaps explore the famous witches market, take an optional excursion to visit the Tiahuanacu Inca Ruins or go mountain biking on the 'World's Most Dangerous Road'. See the Trip Notes for more information about the optional activities on offer in La Paz. **Overnight - La Paz (B)**

Days 3-4 : Uyuni Salt Flats



La Paz - Uyuni. Today we journey south to Uyuni, the gateway to the Salar de Uyuni, which is the world's largest salt pan. We spend the night at a hotel in Uyuni that's famous for serving pizzas at the highest altitude in the world.

On day 4 we spend a full day exploring the incredible landscape of the Salar de Uyuni by jeep and on foot. Stretching for 12,000 square kilometres, the blinding white crystals of the salt flats reflect the sky perfectly, making the horizon disappear. We visit the nearby train graveyard and cactus-filled 'Fish Island' en route, with plenty of time throughout the day to get some perspective-bending photographs. **Overnight - Uyuni (2)** (B:2, L:1)

Day 5 : The Altiplano



Uyuni - Altiplano (Chile). We continue our journey across the wilds of the Altiplano.

This impressive, desolate desert landscape stretches all the way to Chile and is dotted with streams and lakes that appear vividly coloured due to the mineral deposits in the water. These lakes are flanked by the impressive volcanic peaks of the high Bolivian Andes, which are awe-inspiringly beautiful and undoubtedly some of the most spectacular mountain scenery you'll ever see. We have plenty of photo stops along the way as we cross into Chile and to our camp for the evening. Tonight's camp is a remote bush camp with no facilities. **Overnight - Altiplano (B, L, D)**

Days 6-7 : The Atacama Desert



Altiplano - San Pedro de Atacama. In the morning we break camp and drive through the stunning Reserva Nacional Alto Loa to reach the desert oasis town of San Pedro de Atacama. En route we stop off for photographs and enjoy lunch as the famous El Tatio Geysers, which are the world's highest at an elevation of 4,300 metres.

The following day is free to explore the Atacama Desert, with an included trip to the extraordinary Valley of the Moon to witness the sunset over this incredible landscape. This region is considered one of the best in the world for astronomy and, provided there isn't a full moon, we have the chance to go stargazing tonight. **Overnight - San Pedro de Atacama (2)** (B:2, L:1)

Days 8-9 : Salta

San Pedro de Atacama - Salta (Argentina). We depart Chile at the Paso Jamo border and cross into Argentina on day 8. It's a long drive day across the mighty Andes towards our destination for the evening - Salta. Day 9 is at leisure to explore Salta. This city has a

number of interesting museums and stunning surrounding hills which are great to explore by bike or on foot. You could also take a cable car to the San Bernardo Hill viewpoint or the famous Train to the Clouds for some impressive mountain scenery. **Overnight - Salta (2)** (B:2)

Days 10-11 : Cafayate



Salta - Cafayate. Departing Salta we drive through the incredible rock formations of the Quebrada de las Conchas en route to Cafayate on day 10. This small town is in the heart of Argentina's premier wine producing region and there will be the opportunity to visit some of the local vineyards. **Overnight - Salta (B:2, L:1, D:2)**

Day 12 : Quilmes ancient ruins

Cafayate - Quilmes - Recreo. On day 12 we continue south through some beautiful mountains before arriving in the pampas that Argentina is famous for. We explore the ancient ruins of the indigenous city of Quilmes on the way and tonight we enjoy a wild camping experience. **Overnight - Recreo (B, L, D)**

Days 13-15 : Gaucho Ranch



Recreo - Estancia. Today we drive to a unique Anglo-Argentine estancia, or cattle ranch, where we stay for the next three nights at a camp near the main house. This estancia is a working ranch farming prized Argentinian

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Aberdeen Angus cattle and has been in the same family for four generations.

Here we experience the traditional hospitality of the ranching community and enjoy an Argentine BBQ called an *asado* on one of our nights here. We also enjoy an evening of traditional music, a wine tasting of local produce and the chance to learn how to lasso. What's more, there are daily horseback riding excursions into the surrounding hills that'll make you feel like a true gaucho in no time.

Overnight - Estancia (3) (B:3, L:3, D:3)

Day 16 : Cordoba



Estancia - Cordoba. This morning we enjoy a leisurely start and after breakfast continue our drive to the lively university city of Cordoba, located at the heart of the Argentinian sierras. This afternoon is free to explore and soak up Cordoba's vibrant atmosphere or enjoy its excellent nightlife. **Overnight - Cordoba** (B)

Days 17-18 : Mendoza



Cordoba - Mendoza. We have an early start on day 17 as we take a full day to drive to the beautiful town of Mendoza in the foothills of the Andes. Mendoza is well known as one of the 'Wine Capitals of the World' and is renowned for its delicious Malbec. The following day is free to explore this region, head out on various adventure activities or

take a tasting tour of the incredible wineries.

Overnight - Mendoza (2) (B:2)

Days 19-20 : Santiago



Mendoza - Santiago (Chile). Heading back into Chile on day 19 we drive across the Cristo Redentor pass in the high Andes. We pass Aconcagua, the highest mountain in the Southern Hemisphere, as we head to the Chilean capital of Santiago. Day 20 is free for you to explore the city independently. Our accommodation in Santiago is a centrally located hostel. **Overnight - Santiago** (B:2)

Day 21 : Santiago

Our incredible journey comes to an end in Santiago this morning. If you would like to extend your stay in Chile we can arrange post tour accommodation upon request. (B)

PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. Prices shown above are per person travelling. These overland trips are designed for shared accommodation, whether camping or staying in hotels or hostels, and therefore do not involve a single supplement. Hostels are nearly always multi-share and may be mixed sex and many hotel rooms in South America are triple/quad-share. Whilst the crew will do their best to accommodate couples travelling together in twin rooms, all our travellers should expect to stay in multi-

share accommodation when staying in hostels.

PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
11 Sep	USD 1,575	USD 1,575
15 Oct	USD 1,575	USD 1,575
16 Nov	USD 1,575	USD 1,575
08 Dec	USD 1,575	USD 1,575
12 Dec	USD 1,760	USD 1,760

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
14 Jan	USD 1,585	USD 1,585
13 Sep	USD 1,585	USD 1,585
20 Sep	USD 1,585	USD 1,585
29 Nov	USD 1,585	USD 1,585
03 Dec	USD 1,585	USD 1,585

PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
05 Jan	USD 1,640	USD 1,640
11 Sep	USD 1,640	USD 1,640
24 Sep	USD 1,640	USD 1,640
20 Oct	USD 1,640	USD 1,640
12 Dec	USD 1,640	USD 1,640
16 Dec	USD 1,640	USD 1,640

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