

EXCITING ASTRONOMY ADVENTURE TRAVEL

quasarchile

CODE QC-02

In-Depth Atacama Adventures: Land and Sky

8-day Tour with 2 nights camping

Fixed departures dates 2017

Departure	Ending	Starts in	Ends in
Saturday March 25, 2017	Saturday April 1, 2017	Calama	Antofagasta
Saturday April 22, 2017	Saturday April 29, 2017	Calama	Antofagasta
Saturday May 20, 2017	Saturday May 27, 2017	Calama	Antofagasta
Saturday June 17, 2017	Saturday June 24, 2017	Calama	Antofagasta
Saturday July 22, 2017	Saturday July 29, 2017	Calama	Antofagasta
Saturday August 19, 2017	Saturday August 26, 2017	Calama	Antofagasta
Saturday September 16, 2017	Saturday September 23, 2016	Calama	Antofagasta

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1

ARRIVAL TO SANTIAGO – FLIGHT TO CALAMA - SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA

Arrival to Santiago airport and flight to Calama (7.280 ft), important mining town in the heart of Atacama Desert. One and a half hours drive across the desert towards the Andes Mountains to the picturesque town of San Pedro de Atacama (7.797 ft). Accommodation at the hotel. Lunch at a San Pedro restaurant, not included. In the afternoon, visit to the Salt Range and the Moon Valley Nature Sanctuary. At the Moon Valley Nature Sanctuary, you will see barren ridges and soaring cliffs formed by the folding of the watery ground underneath a salt lake, which as it rose, created beautiful forms and spires that appear to be sculptures. Dinner at a San Pedro restaurant, not included.

Hotel. No meals included

Day 2

SAN PEDRO – ALMA VISIT - EL TAMBILLO

Breakfast at the hotel. [Morning visit to ALMA, starting at 09am](#). ALMA is the most powerful radio observatory on earth and is currently functioning in the Chilean altiplano, in Atacama, at an altitude of 16.400 FT. ALMA is comprised of some 64 12-meter sub-millimetre quality antennas, with baselines extending up to 10 km. all of them located at Chajnantor flats, at 16.400 ft. The visit starts at 09am and you will be back to San Pedro at 01 pm. Lunch on your own in San Pedro de Atacama. In the afternoon, hike Pukara de Quito, ancient pre-inca fortress built in the 12th century. Continuing on, we drive to El Tambillo, a Tamarugo forest in the nearest of Atacama salt flat, where we set up our Base Camp.

Camp. Breakfast and dinner included.

[First opportunity for Guided astronomical observations at SpaceObs San Pedro de Atacama](#)

Day 3

EL TAMBILLO – ATACAMA SALT FLAT – MONTURAQUI CRATER

Breakfast at the Base Camp. We dismount our camp and drive toward south, visiting Toconao and Chaxa lagoon in the immense Atacama Salt Flat. A 300,000 hectares salt deposit, the Atacama Salt Flat is a place inhabited by many species of flamingos in the National Reserve with the same name. Continuing on, we will drive to 9.840 feet and reach Monturaqui crater area, where we set up our base camp. Monturaqui is a meteorite crater located south of Salar de Atacama. The impact that created the crater is estimated to have occurred approximately 660,000 years ago, during the Pleistocene.

Camp. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Day 4

MONTURAQUI CRATER – MISCANTI & MIÑIQUES LAGOONS – SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA

Breakfast at the Base Camp. We dismount our camp and drive toward southeast to the high plateaus, reaching 14.100 feet, to the dazzling Miscanti and Miniques lagoons with its special fauna, such as the giant Tagua bird. Lunch at the foothill of this amazing volcanoes. Drive back to San Pedro de Atacama and return to the hotel. Dinner at a San Pedro restaurant, not included.

Hotel. Breakfast, lunch included.

[Second opportunity for Guided astronomical observations at SpaceObs San Pedro de Atacama](#)

Day 5

SAN PEDRO- PURITAMA – SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA

Drive to Guatín and hike to the exclusive Puritama Hot Springs (11.152 ft), where our staff will be awaiting you with an exquisite lunch. In the afternoon, drive back to San Pedro de Atacama.

Hotel. Breakfast, lunch included.

Third opportunity for Guided astronomical observations at SpaceObs San Pedro de Atacama

Day 6

SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA – CHAJNANTOR FLATS - SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA

Drive to drive to Cerro Toco, at 16.400 ft, from where you will have an impressive view of the Chajnantor flats and ALMA antennas. In the afternoon a walk in the Death Valley will show you a different view of the Salt Range.

Hotel. Breakfast, lunch included.

Day 7

Day 6 SAN PEDRO - TATIO GEYSERS - ANTOFAGASTA

Transfer at sunrise to the geothermal Tatio Geysers field (14.170 ft), a place where violent plumes of vapor from the boiling water wells surface. A hot breakfast will be served during the visit of the geothermal site. Drive across the Andean high plateaus and the flats of the Atacama Desert towards Antofagasta, important city of the north of Chile, (0 ft). Lunch in route.

Hotel. Breakfast, lunch included.

Day 8

ANTOFAGASTA – VLT PARANAL - FLIGHT TO SANTIAGO

Early transfer to the site of the [Very Large Telescope \(VLT\)](#), four telescopes 26.9 feet in diameter, on Paranal Hill (8.672 ft). Visit of the VLT in the morning. (09am) Lunch will be served in route back to Antofagasta. Returning to the airport from Paranal you will visit the natural monument, La Portada, a fantastic arch carved by a millenium of ocean waves. Transfer to Antofagasta airport and flight to Santiago. End of our services. Breakfast, lunch included.

LAND COST 2016

QC2 Set departures. Min 8 / Max 16 people

U\$d 1,680.00

For single supplement please add U\$d 240.00

Rates per person, based on double room/tent accommodation.

Hotel Dunas in San Pedro and Geohotel in Antofagasta, or similar.

LAND COST INCLUDES

Private transportation throughout

Local bilingual guide

Camp staff such as a cook and camp assistants

Meals and accommodation as mentioned in the itinerary.

All activities as mentioned in the program, including ALMA and VLT Paranal visits

Entrance fees: Puritama, El Tatio, Valle de la Luna, Miscanti Miñiques, Laguna Chaxa

One guided astronomical observation at Spaceobs

High quality communal camping gear including tents as well as full base camp infrastructure and services.

Airport transfers as mentioned in the program.

First aid kit. Bottled oxygen for emergencies.

Sat phone on pay per minute basis.

LAND COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare.

Chilean domestic flights.

Compulsory travel insurances (accidents, repatriation) and other insurances of any kind (e.g. medical, trip cancellation strongly recommended).

Transfers for independent arrival or departure.

Meals and accommodation not specified after each itinerary day.

Any other expenses not mentioned in the day by day program or in the included items.

Important note:

Trips to ALMA [Atacama Large Millimeter Array] and VLT [Very Large Telescope] can be reserved directly at these organizations' website, and your chances of taking part depend exclusively on actual availability at the time of booking. QuasarChile will make these reservations for you only after formally receiving your reservation for our astronomy tours. Available space for these visits is limited and QuasarChile cannot guarantee it. Therefore, we recommend that you reserve your space on our tours as early as possible. And in any case, if you still have not decided to book with QuasarChile, you can secure your space for trips to VLT and ALMA [Observatories] directly at the following links:

[ALMA bookings](#)

[VLT bookings](#)

Booking and Payment Conditions:

10% no refundable to confirm the trip and book the guides and the services.

The balance is due in full 30 days before the date of departure.

Reimbursement policies:

15 to 29 days of departure: 50% of no refunds

15 days to 1 day before departure or no show: 100% of no refunds

Policy:

If, for any reason, anyone leaves the trip before its completion, for whatever reason, there will be no reimbursement of fees. If the weather, or other factor(s), makes completing our objective impossible, there will be no reimbursement of fees. In the case any of the participants need for a rescue, or the participant leaves the trip before its completion, for whatever reason, the participant is responsible for any expenses incurred.

QUASAR CHILE is not responsible for any expenses incurred if the trip should be delayed due to weather, strikes, theft, acts of nature, civil disturbances, terrorism,

acts of war, government restrictions or regulations, failure of any form of transportation to arrive or depart as scheduled, or discrepancies over which QUASAR CHILE has no control. If the participant cancels at any time before the activity there will be no refund of the 10% deposit.

Program and rates updated October 2016