



2025

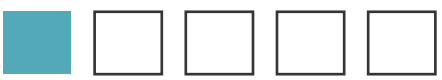
# Excursions

tierraatacamayo





When you arrive at Tierra Atacama our team will create a personalized excursion plan for you. Our expert guides take into consideration your personal interests and physical activity level so that you can explore the driest desert in the world in your own way.

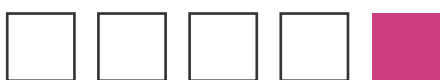
Activities are divided into 5 levels of difficulty:

Easy   
Appropriate for all ages and abilities.

Medium - Easy  
Requires a basic level of physical fitness.

Medium   
Requires some degree of physical fitness and experience.

Medium - Difficult   
Requires good level of physical fitness and experience.

Difficult   
Only for people who are very fit, with experience in wilderness areas.

Although recognized as one of the driest landscapes on earth, the Atacama Desert is surprisingly full of life and the sheer scale and contrasts generated by natural phenomena constantly amazes visitors.

Vast salt flats stretch for miles, some of which are home to flourishing flamingo colonies. Others have hidden bottomless pools of mineral rich water where you can bathe untethered by gravity.

The high-altitude lagoons shimmer in vivid turquoise, or deep cobalt, contrasting with the varied hues that range from deep terracotta to palest wheat in the surrounding peaks. Ancient petroglyphs etch stories onto the desert canvas and a wide array of nature’s marvels awaits discovery, including geysers, hot springs, kaleidoscopic cliffs and snowy peaked volcanoes. There’s so much to explore and discover throughout the Atacama Desert. As well as scenic journeys, you can enjoy gentle horseback or e-bike rides, as well as challenging hikes and bucket-list volcano climbs.

During your stay, our generous all inclusive program means you can choose two half-day or one full day excursion per day, except on the day of your departure.

**Half day:** These activities take place in the morning and/or the afternoon, returning to the hotel for lunch.

**Full day:** These excursions begin in the morning and lunch is outside the hotel. This may be in the form of a box lunch, a buffet table or lunch at a local restaurant, depending on the excursion. Return to the hotel is usually by 5.00pm.

If you would like to make the most of Uma Spa during your stay, check the excursion arrival times with our team to ensure you are able to enjoy your treatment.

*\*All our excursions are subject to weather conditions and availability.*





## 1. The Salar de Atacama

■ □ □ □ □ Half Day

The ideal option for your first afternoon in San Pedro, this captivating excursion features vivid colors and an introduction to the vast expanse of the highland desert.

First we visit the unique stone village of Toconao, with its artisan workshops and historic bell tower. Then we drive on to the Los Flamencos National Reserve at Chaxa Lagoon in the Salar de Atacama, which is home to three species of flamingo. As the day comes to an end, the vast open skies and imposing peaks along the horizon change color dramatically with the sunset.





## 2. Vallecito

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐ Half Day

A gentle walk through the salt mountain range located to the west of the San Pedro Oasis. Visit a wonderful landscape with selenite (plaster glass) which shines in the morning sunlight.

Listen to salt crystals expand and contract, caused by temperature changes which lead to eerie noises in the silence of the desert. Then enjoy an Instagram worthy photo-op with an abandoned bus near the old salt mines, before getting in touch with our playful side, running down a giant sand dune.





### 3. Quebrada del Diablo

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ Half Day

Hewed into the land by floodwaters, the Quebrada del Diablo winds its way through the edge of the Salt Mountains.

With rewarding views of the mountains, volcanoes and the oasis of the village of San Pedro, it is the heritage of travelers and traders who used these trails in centuries past.





## 4. Cejar Lagoon

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ Half Day

This is a morning excursion to make the most of the temperature at this time of day and can be done by bicycle (mountain bike or e-bike) or in one of our comfortable vehicles.

The Cejar lagoon, has a thick salt crust which has formed around the water hole and glistens brightly in the sunlight. The salt concentration is incredibly high here and you can float in the spectacularly clear waters.





## 5. Guatin Gatchi Valley

□ □ □ ■ □ Half Day

A valley dotted with small waterfalls and rocky pathways, where the warm thermal waters of the Puritama river merge with the cool meltwaters off the Andes in the Purifica river, the plant life here is **distinctive**. Walk through a forest of giant Cardon cactuses to emerge next to the Vilama river, with a sweeping view of the vast valley below.





## 6. Rainbow Valley

■ □ □ □ □ Half Day

A geological and archaeological treat, this excursion includes the discovery of ancient petroglyphs and admiring the Rainbow Valley's mineral-rich rock face which is a kaleidoscope of color. Stripes of copper, silver, jade, violet (and everything in-between) lend this sacred place its name.

We also visit the settlement of Hierbas Buenas, where intricate pre-Columbian petroglyphs depict animals and messages transmitted between traders in times gone by.





## 7. Purilactis

□ □ ■ □ □ Half Day

Crystalline rivers, dramatic rock formations and some of the region's oldest petroglyphs are featured during this trek. From high up in the mountains we move away from the life giving waters of the river and follow an arid gorge. The exact age of the petroglyphs of Yervas Buenas is unknown, but they are thought to have been carved by traders from ancient times. The hike ends at the Rainbow Valley with its multicolored rock walls.







## 8. Tatio Geysers\* (with acclimatization)

■ □ □ □ □ Full Day

With an early morning start, we reach the Tatio Geysers just as the sun emerges from behind the high Andes, casting an ethereal glow on a geothermal field with over 80 active geysers and their columns of steam in the early morning light. Surrounded by bubbling pools of boiling mud and water we have breakfast at the top of the world. On the drive back, stop at the picturesque village of Machuca with its craft stalls and church, and then look out for vicuñas, foxes, vizcachas and Andean ostriches which can often be seen.

*\*This excursion is not suitable for anyone whose health may be affected by the altitude.*







## 9. Piedras Rojas:\*

■ □ □ □ □ Full Day

This is a vehicle-based journey to the remote wilderness that is the **altiplano of the Andean plateau**. The first stop is at Miscanti lake, which is at 4,100m/13,500ft. above sea level. There is an opportunity for a short walk along a path around the lake and we keep an eye out for wildlife. Then we continue to Meñiques, a “sister” lake, where there is a viewing platform (access is limited). Continuing towards Piedras Rojas we can see the vivid contrast between the icy water and salt deposits and the “red rocks”. After a 45-minute walk, (the path is easy, but the altitude makes the activity demanding) we have lunch overlooking this natural arena.

*\*This excursion is not suitable for anyone whose health may be affected by the altitude*





## 10. Cerro Toco Volcano Climb (acclimatization is necessary)

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ Full Day

Located near the border between Chile and Bolivia, the extinct Toco volcano offers incredible views from the summit at 5,600m (18,700 ). You can see the vastness of the Atacama Salt flat and Laguna Blanca, over the border in Bolivia. *Whilst not technically difficult, the altitude makes this hike challenging.*

*Please note: Climbing hills and volcanoes in the Atacama is highly challenging due to the altitude. Before doing this excursion, guests must acclimatize for a minimum of five nights and must be over 18. The safety of our guests is non-negotiable and we will only offer this activity to people who have the physical capacity to do it without endangering themselves or others.*





## 11. Horseback riding

■ □ □ □ □ Full or Half Day

Through our support of local small businesses, we can offer horseback rides of different lengths and styles to our guests. The saddles are Chilean, similar to the US western saddles, and we have facilities in the hotel grounds where the horses wait for guests. Departing from the hotel, rides can range from a one hour gentle walk around the village, or up to 5 hours, heading towards the Salt Mountains nearby.





## 12. Stargazing

■ □ □ □ □ Half Day

The skies in the Atacama desert are amongst the clearest in the world and there are many ways to view the canopy of stars and the milky way as it moves through the heavens. Viewing astronomical phenomena through a professional telescope, spotting classical constellations with the naked eye, or learning about the Atacameñan view of the cosmos with a laser pointer held by a local are just some of the possibilities.

