



Luxury Honeymoon in Chile

12 Days & 11 Nights

Highlights

- Most southerly country in the world.
- From Atacama - The most arid desert on Earth to the ice fields of Patagonia in the South, on to Easter Island, the world's largest open-air museum
- Enjoy the Vineyard
- Chile has a highly developed tourism infrastructure, equivalent to that of Europe or the USA.
- Bordered by the Andes the world's second highest mountain range.

ITINERARY IN DETAIL

Day 01

Welcome to Chile!

Upon your arrival at Santiago airport you will receive an exclusive meet & greet at the disembarking gate of your flight. Your local A&K guide will immediately assist you with immigration and custom formalities. Later you will be assisted to connect with your flight to Calama, the gateway of your adventure in the Atacama Desert.

The quaint oasis town of San Pedro de Atacama sits in the driest desert in the world – Atacama – and is the main base for explorations in the area. This region was the principal center of the Atacamanian Indian culture, and relics such as Tulum, an ancient village estimated to have been built in 800 B.C., and the superb archaeology museum boasts hundreds of artifacts that have been well preserved by the desert's arid climate. But it is perhaps San Pedro's intangible magic that captivates its visitors in the end. San Pedro's streets have a pleasant, artistic, bohemian vibe, and its adobe buildings maintain a certain charm and unique character.

Upon arrival at the local airport of "El Loa" in the city of Calama, you will be welcomed by your local guide from Awasi lodge, for one hour transfer to San Pedro de Atacama, where your lodge is located.

Awasi Lodge

Each cottage of this small hotel is tastefully appointed, with generous spaces, private patio, a reading area, as well as indoor and outdoor showers. What really sets Awasi apart from the competition is the fact that for each cottage there will be a guide and 4x4 vehicle, making for the most personalized experience for guests. The aim of Awasi is simple; provide a luxurious environment from which one can admire the immensity of the Atacama Desert, while enjoying life's creature comforts.

Upon arrival at the hotel, you will enjoy your lunch at the lodge and your guide will be ready to explain you the different activities available for this afternoon.

In the evening return to the hotel for a **private candle light dinner**, follow by a **stargazing tour** at one of the clearest sky in the world. The special light conditions, crystal clear atmosphere and aridness of the Atacama Desert make it one of the finest places in the world for astronomical observation. This has led to the installation of important astronomical observatories in the area in the past few years such as the ALMA Project, which will be the world's largest radio telescope. **With the help of an expert**, you will learn the basic concepts and history of astronomy. You will discover the ancestral Andean culture's interpretation of the universe and the constellations, how they measured it and the legends they created around it. You will also learn the difference between traditional astronomy and radio astronomy, the objectives of the ALMA project, and its mode of operation.

Overnight Stay Awasi Lodge

Day 02 & 03

San Pedro de Atacama

You will have two days at leisure at Awasi lodge to enjoy any of the daily activities available to explore the Atacama Desert. Some of the activities available at your lodge are:

Toconao and Atacama Salt Lake

Description: The car leaves Awasi heading south on the paved road to the Salt Lake. After some 60 minutes we reach the town of Toconao, famous for its buildings of liparite volcanic stone. There, you can visit its historic church and bell tower and tour the stalls of craftspeople who offer their goods in the square. Next to Toconao is Jere creek, a canyon with the only running fresh water in these surroundings. This water has fed, since long ago, a true orchard of fruit trees and farmed vegetables. Then, continue on to Chaxa pond, a National Reserve located at Atacama Salt Lake. This pond is surrounded by salt crusts that result from the evaporation of salty ground water. In this setting you may observe the flamingoes that inhabit the Salt Lake, as well as other native bird species. This is undoubtedly a place of captivating beauty from which you can see the Domeyko Range, the Salt Range and the Andes Range, a panorama that becomes particularly splendid at dusk.

Level of difficulty: Easy.

What to bring along: Sunscreen, sun glasses; if the outing is in the afternoon: Windbreaker, full shoes (for all).

Departure: Morning or afternoon.

Van trip: 80 miles (round trip). Duration: 4 hours approx.

Moon Valley

Description: Leave Awasi and head to the Natural Reserve, which is located some 15 minutes away in the middle of the Salt Range. Its name speaks of the magic of the landscape. As the tour progresses, you find lookouts from which to observe the unusual geological shapes which, together with the action of wind and water, have originated a land relief reminiscent of the inhospitable beauty of the lunar surface. The final moments of the sunset when, in a matter of seconds, luminous streaks bring out subtle coloring differences in the mountains, is simply indescribable.

Level of difficulty: Easy.

What to bring along: Sunscreen, sun glasses, hiking shoes.

Departure: In the afternoon.
Van trip: 25 miles (round trip).
Duration: 3,5 hours approx.

Cejar Pond

Description: Leave Awasi by car and head to the northern part of the Atacama Salt Lake, crossing part of the Ayllu that are farthest from San Pedro, and then turn into a dirt road surrounded by sparse vegetation and remarkable dryness. After some 11 miles reach Cejar, a set of three ponds located in the middle of the Salt Lake in one of which you can bathe. Given its high degree of saltiness, you can not only float on the water but in fact cannot sink, a phenomenon similar to what you find in the Dead Sea (Israel). In this place you can watch birds that live in the Salt Lake zone, such as flamingoes and Andean gulls, and enjoy a privileged view of the surrounding ranges whose color contrasts with the deep blue of its waters. This outing is also optional on bicycle, a ride that takes approximately 1 hour and a half, returning to the Hotel by car.

Level of difficulty: Easy.

What to bring along: Sunscreen, sun glasses, bathing suit, sandals.

Departure: Morning or afternoon.

Van trip: 23 miles (round trip).

Duration: 3 hours approx.

Highland Salt Lakes

Description: Highly recommendable, as there are few places in the highlands which offer such a variety. Leave Awasi heading south and visit the towns of Toconao and Socaire (10.600 ft). Along the way you will find different types of landscapes, which run from the driest dessert to small oases and mountain views. You will be able to see vicunas, among other wild species. You will be surprised by the immensity and inhospitable beauty of the Tuyajtu and Aguas Calientes salt lakes, with their turquoise colored ponds inhabited by ducks and flamingoes.

Level of difficulty: Easy, but requires prior adaptation to the altitude.

What to bring along: Sunscreen, sun glasses, warm clothing (jacket, long pants, full shoes, hat).

Departure: Morning

Van trip: 200 miles (round trip).

Duration: Full day.

Tatio- Puritama

Description: We head north and gradually gain altitude as you cross the highland and observe the very rich flora & fauna of the place. After two hours on the road reach the Tatio Geysers, intermittent springs that gush out as imposing steam and hot water columns. After visiting the place you will have breakfast, enjoying the place and the peculiarity of its fumaroles. Before returning to Awasi, stop at the Puritama warm springs, where you can bathe and enjoy an appetizer (see Puritama).

Level of difficulty: Easy, but requires prior adaptation to the altitude.

What to bring along: Sunscreen, sun glasses, lots of warm clothing (jacket, long pants, full shoes, hat).

Departure: 6:00 / Return: 12:00pm

Van trip: 157 miles (round trip).

Duration: All day.

During your stay in Atacama, enjoy an exciting experience surfing in the dunes of San Pedro de Atacama. Sanboard is a great experience not just because of the place, but also due to the strong feeling that you will get when you are going down in a dunes of 120 metres.

Overnight Stay Awasi Lodge

After a leisure breakfast at your lodge, you will be transferred back to the airport in Calama to return to Santiago.

Upon arrival in Santiago, your A&K local guide will meet you at the airport to continue your trip and explore some of the **best Chile's wine valleys**. **Casablanca** is one of the most emblematic valleys on Chile's wine circuit and provides an enticing mix of some of the country's finest whites like Loma Larga wines. We invite you to **discover Loma Larga** peaceful vineyard's area and its beautiful old parks before an exclusive wines tasting on the country-state house. Then you will continue to the San Antonio valley, Chile's newest and smallest D.O. and home to several new vineyards, such as **Matetic vineyard**.

The Matetic family owns the entire Rosario valley Estate, which has a luxurious but rustic-looking guesthouse at one end, an impressive, hi-tech bodega at the other. The family history starts in Punta Arenas, at the end of the 19th century, with the arrival to Chile of Jorge Matetic Cetinja. Armed with a tremendous spirit of adventure, this Croatian immigrant sailed from Europe to settle in the far southern part of America. This same spirit of adventure is what led the company into the wine-growing business in 1999, in the firm belief that climatic characteristics associated with the kind of soil and light in this part of the country could produce high quality wines. How correct they were. Due to its geographic location, its temperate coastal Mediterranean climate has a strong ocean influence, with significant thermal fluctuations during the day - 20 degrees in the ripening period. The temperature normally rises quickly during the morning, until noon, when a soft ocean breeze helps maintain an average 26 degrees during the summer, a temperature that is ideal for the ripening of grapes. **Enjoy a private wine tasting before an exquisite lunch on the winery's restaurant.**

The rest of the afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the beautiful garden of the vineyard.

Dinner will be served at your lodge "La Casona of Vineyard Matetic"

Overnight Stay La Casona Vineyard Matetic

Day 05

Santiago / Patagonia

After breakfast at your Hotel, you will be met by your guide at the lobby of the hotel for your transfer to the airport to take your flight to Punta Arenas.

At your arrival at the Punta Arenas airport meet a local representative who assists with your luggage collection and takes you to the Singular lodge, situated in the town of Puerto Natales, where you will spend the next four nights.

The hotel is located in the converted "Frigorific Puerto Bories", a post-Victorian cold-storage plant built in 1915. This industrial complex was originally built by the "Sociedad Explotadora de Tierra del Fuego" to process and export frozen meat to Europe. The cattle came from all over the Patagonia, including across the Andes in Argentina. The factory was in operation for 70 years, generating work and contributing to the development of the region. After a long period of neglect, the building was restored to its former industrial grandeur and as a result of the meticulous conservation, was declared a National Monument in 1996.

Lunch will be included at your lodge.

Afternoon will be at leisure to take one of the half day activities or simply relax and enjoy hotel facilities.

Overnight Stay The Singular

Day 06 & 07

Patagonia

You will have 2 days to continue exploring the wonderful Patagonia alongside the Singular lodge's knowledgeable guides.

There is a wide range of expeditions with different grades of difficulty and duration. Activities include horseback riding, trekking, kayaking, mountain biking, bird- watching to name just a few. You will take part on exclusive expeditions that will give you access to private lands and sites off the beaten track. Navigation is a thrill... reaching beautiful unexplored areas.

Overnight Stay The Singular

Day 08

Patagonia / Santiago

In due to time, you will be transferred back to Punta Arenas airport by Explora van to board your flight back to Santiago.

Upon arrival in Santiago, you will be met by your A&K local guide, you will escorted on your 30 minutes ride to hotel Ritz Carlton in Santiago.

The Ritz-Carlton Santiago

While the exterior of the Ritz-Carlton Santiago may appear remarkably understated when compared to other hotels in the city, once inside it becomes clear that this is undoubtedly Santiago's finest hotel. This, Ritz-Carlton's first property in South America, combines the intimate, luxurious interiors one would expect, with gracious, attentive service, creating a pleasant 'boutique' atmosphere. The hotel also boasts a privileged location in the heart of the uptown El Golf neighbourhood, with its numerous restaurants, cafés, elegant boutiques and design stores, and tidy plazas. An Early Check-In will be arranged at the hotel, ensuring that your rooms will be available upon arrival. **Your room will be specially decorated with rose petals and flowers. Champagne & chocolates will be waiting for you for a special toast.**

This evening, we would like to invite you to a culinary experience with our local chef Maria José Neut.

who studied culinary art in Chile's capital city before her departure to Asia and Middle East where she explored new cultures and discovered exotic flavours acquiring a unique experience. She will pick you up at the hotel and lead you to your waiting vehicle for a short orientation tour of the upper part of the city to continue then to María Jose's apartment where you will be invited to enjoy an aperitif (such as the emblematic Pisco Sour) along with some appetizers. Join Maria Jose in the kitchen where you can roll up your sleeves and take part in the preparation of today's menu, which will be served with the appropriate wines, or just sit back and relax as you sip your cocktail. **A romantic menu with candels** will be prepared specially for our guests.

During your stay at the Ritz Carlton, it is included a **"bath butler services"**, from which you can select a nightly package of aromatic soaps and oils, rose petals, and even indulge in a 'wine bath'.

Overnight Stay Ritz Carlton

In due to time, departure transfer for your hotel to the airport in Santiago to board your flight to Easter Island.

Discovered in 1722 on Easter Sunday (hence the name), Easter Island is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the most isolated place on the face of the Earth. At a distance of 3,700 km (2,300 miles) from the nearest populated point, which is the Chilean mainland. Although more Polynesian than South American in character, the 64-square mile island was annexed by Chile in 1888, and is now famous as the world's largest 'open air Museum' on account of the Moai, or human-like stone statues, (more than 600 of them), that can be found on the island. The Moai remain very much a mystery which archaeologists are still trying to unlock by interpreting an ancient language of the Rapa Nui, which is the key to understanding this culture, and is written on the so called 'rongo rongo tablets'. However, its unique characters that run left-to-right one line and then the reverse on the next line are still undecipherable.

The island owes its origin to three volcanoes which erupted some three million years ago: Poike, Rano Kau and Maunga Terevaka. It is not known when or how the island was first populated, but the most credible theory suggests that the Rapa Nui people came from other Pacific islands in the 4th century AD.

In addition to the cultural and archaeological interest, there are the beautiful beaches, transparent waters and coral reefs that might be expected of a Pacific Island, and Jacques Cousteau himself agreed that it is one of the most perfect places for under-water marine studies.

Upon arrival to the local airport Mataverí, you will be welcomed with traditional floral collars and transfer to Explora Lodge, Posada Mike Rapu.

Explora Lodge, Posada Mike Rapu.

On the mythical Easter Island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, Explora en Rapa Nui –Posada de Mike Rapu is located on a hill in the Te Miro Oone sector, on 9.6 hectares of land that faces the sea. The hotel is situated in the southwestern zone of the island, 5.6 km from Hanga Roa – the only town on the island – and it will act as a base for exploring this attractive and mysterious island, home to a culture whose origins and evolution remain unexplained. Volcanic rocks, native to the island and always used by the island's inhabitants in construction, and wood from the mainland are the principal materials. The hotel has 30 guestrooms that spread out from central areas that house reception, living areas, a bar, kitchen and services. Next to the common areas is the "Casa de Baños" Hare Vai, with a pool, massage salon and open-air Jacuzzis.

Once at Explora Lodge, it will be time at leisure for you to relax and take advantage of hotel facilities, before your local guide pick you up at the hotel to enjoy one of the most spectacular views of Easter Island. This **afternoon your local A&K guide will assist you to dress your self as the local Rapa Nui People due, using the traditional body painting known as "Takona"**. During traditional ceremonies Rapa Nui people paint their faces and bodies preserving the technique of mixing natural pigments and describing the meaning of the painting.

A sunset champagne toast will specially set atone of the amazing spot of the island. In the evening **enjoy your dinner at the home of local Rapa Nui family.** The key to understanding the

history, myths and legends of this extraordinary place is surely meeting their people. Dining at the home of a local family, providing an unforgettable experience and true insight on everyday life on the island. This evening you will have the opportunity to savor the most typical Rapa Nui and Polynesian food, prepared in an earth-oven, locally called “**UMU**”. The curanto, or “UMU”, will be **prepared by Maria Huke Rapahango**, the matriarch of the family that will look after you during the dinner. Return to Explora Lodge.

Overnight Stay Explora Lodge

Day 10 & 11

Easter Island

Your next two days will be completely at leisure for you to explore the island as you wish. There are several options and every evening your Explora guide will meet you in the bar/living room area of the hotel. Your guide will explain you the excursions available for the next day and help you choose the best exploration for you according to your interests and abilities. The maximum group size is 8 travelers, along with a bilingual Explora guide. Their treks, bicycle rides, and explorations in the ocean (snorkeling, fishing using traditional methods, and boat trips), enable you to gain an in-depth understanding of the culture and geography of Rapa Nui, its ancestral, megalithic figures, the Moai, and the special idiosyncrasies of its people.

Some of the excursions available at the lodge are:

Trekking Ahu Te Peu – Tahai – Hanga Roa

(The Caves And The Cliffs Route)

Duration: 2.5 to 3 hours, walking 1.5 to 2.5 hours. Distance: 6.5 km (4 mi).

Itinerary: Travel from Hotel Posada de Mike Rapu to the Ahu Akivi platform (20 min.). After visiting the site, continue by van to the Te Peu platform (10 min.). Walk along a trail that borders steep cliffs and offers spectacular views of the Pacific. See important archaeological and cultural sites such as Ahu Tepeu and Ahu Tahai. Next, see view the Motu Tautara and visit the Dos Ventanas cave. Finally, pass by the Tahai platform before arriving to Hanga Roa. Return by van to hotel (20 min.). Level: Easy to moderate (trail is rocky and uneven in some areas).

Biking toTongariki (15 Moai Ride)

Duration: 2 to 3 hours. Distance: 22 km (13.7 mi).

Itinerary: Bike from Hotel Posada de Mike Rapu toward the south coast road. Leave the hotel on a dirt road connecting with the south coast paved road. During the first part of the ride there are fine examples of the local agriculture. We head toward the 15 moai platform,

Ahu Tongariki. After admiring the site of Tongariki, return along the same road. Along the way, you can stop at a natural pool for a swim. Level: Moderate

Motus (Islet Boat Ride)

Duration: 3 hours. Distance: approx. 8 km (5 mi) round trip.

Itinerary: Travel by van from Hotel Posada de Mike Rapu to Hanga Roa Otai or Hanga Piko. Depart by traditional Rapa Nui fishing boats. Ride out to view formations of coastal caves and the cliffs of Rano Kau, as well as the south side motus—well known for the Birdman Competition. Level: Easy.

Snorkeling

Duration: 2 hours, approx. 45 to 60 minutes in the water.

Itinerary: The waters off the coast of the island are known for being some of the most transparent in the world. Travel by traditional local fishing boat to one of the designated areas best suited for snorkeling. With equipment provided by explora and accompanied by your guide, discover the beautiful waters where one can see a variety of endemic aquatic fauna including corals, mollusks, crustaceans, and tropical fish. Water temperature ranges from 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F). Level: Easy to moderate. Note: Snorkeling takes place in open waters and directly from the boat.

Previous experience snorkeling recommended. *Availability of sea explorations is associated with the daily weather and sea conditions. The traditional local boats do not provide cover from the sun.

Overnight Stay Explora Lodge

Day 12

Easter Island/Departure

In due to time, transfer back to the airport “Mataverí” to board your flight back to Santiago.

Upon arrival in Santiago, you will be met by your local A&K guide, who will assist you with check-in formalities for your departure flight back home.

*****End of A&K Services*****