

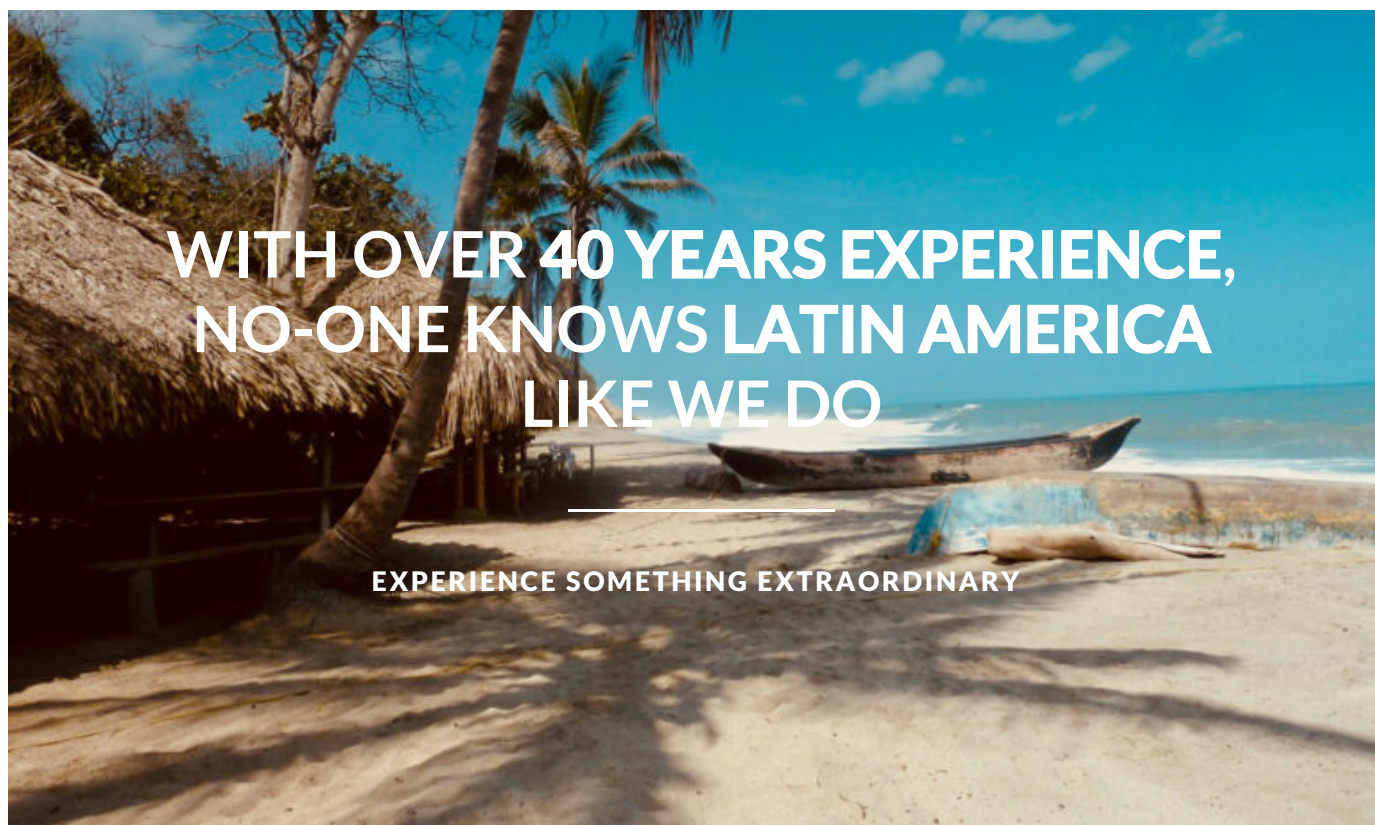


CLASSIC GROUP TOURS

PENGUIN: EXTREMES OF CHILE

14 days from **£5,022pp**

**CHILE / SANTIAGO AND THE VINEYARDS / ATACAMA DESERT / CHILEAN LAKE DISTRICT
(SOUTH) / PATAGONIA / TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK**



WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

- A passion for the region runs through all we do
- All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America
- Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

- Fully bonded and licensed
- ATOL-protected
- On your side when it matters
- Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

- Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks
- We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions
- Let us show you the Latin America we know and love



OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

This comprehensive holiday shows off the variety of landscapes from the Atacama desert to Patagonia, via sunny vineyards and the volcano-dotted lake district. Private travel and top quality hotels throughout.

	UK clients depart arriving in Santiago, Chile, the following day.
DAY 1	Walking tour of the colonial centre.
DAY 2	Optional visits to Pacific port Valparaíso or nearby vineyard.
DAY 3	Fly north to San Pedro
DAY 4	Explore the Atacama desert.
DAY 5	Optional excursions around San Pedro.
DAY 6	Fly via Santiago to the lake district and waterside Puerto Varas.
DAY 7	Excursion to Petrohué Falls; boat trip on Lake Todos Los Santos.
DAY 8	Optional full-day visit to Chiloé Island.
DAY 9	Fly south to Puerto Natales in Patagonia.
DAYS 10 - 11	Explore the national park on some of the included excursions.
DAY 12	By road to Punta Arenas
DAY 13	Continue to Punta Arenas and fly back to Santiago.
DAY 14	Depart for international flight or extension.
	UK clients arrive home the following day.

ITINERARY

Transposed to Europe, Chile would stretch from Norway to Tunisia. It extends some 4,000 kilometres, down a ribbon of land that clings to the western flank of the Andes, with a staggering variety of landscape, vegetation and climate. This comprehensive tour will take you from the lunar landscape of the Atacama Desert in the north, through the patchwork vineyards that surround the cosmopolitan capital, Santiago, and the forested volcanoes of the lake district to the Straits of Magellan, where stormy waters lash the broad, windswept landscapes and snow-capped peaks of Patagonia.



UK clients depart arriving in Santiago, Chile, the following day.



DAY 1

Walking tour of the colonial centre.

In the afternoon your guided city tour takes you to all the major sites of this fascinating city concentrating on Santiago's bustling historic centre, which in recent years has taken on a new lease of life. Awakening from years of neglect, the traditional residential neighbourhood of Lastarria is a delight to explore, replete with shops, arty cafés and characterful hotels. Nearby, leafy Parque Forestal was inaugurated in the early twentieth century to celebrate the first 100 years of the republic. It is just a few blocks from the beating heart of old Santiago, the Plaza de Armas, the capital's main square which is graced by elegant Chilean wine palms with their characteristic bottle-shaped trunks. Grouped around the plaza are Santiago's Cathedral, the main post office, the National Historic Museum and the Municipalidad de Santiago (city hall). From here, if time, visit San Cristóbal Hill by riding the cable car to the top. On clear days there are spectacular panoramic views across the city towards the Andes.



📍 DAY 2

Optional visits to Pacific port Valparaíso or nearby vineyard.

Today there is an optional visit to Chile's second city, Valparaíso (2 hrs by bus). This lively seaport is built on a series of hills which form a backdrop to the wide bay, with views over the seaside resort of Viña del Mar. You can wander through the steep, winding streets and among the brightly-coloured colonial homes built for 19th century British and German merchants, or take a ride in one of the creaky wooden funiculars which link the cliff-top communities.

Time permitting, you may wish to visit one of the vineyards close to Santiago, to sample some highly respected Chilean wine.



📍 DAY 3

Fly north to San Pedro

Fly north to Calama (2 hours) where you will be driven (90mins) to the oasis of San Pedro de Atacama. San Pedro is a timeless adobe town with a laid back atmosphere and an erratic electricity supply. Its dusty streets are lined with bars, cafés and tour operators offering various excursions into the surrounding desert.

On the guided excursion you arrive late in the afternoon at the Moon Valley (its name tells it all) to explore shady gorges and canyons formed over centuries by the erosion of salt mountains. Just before dusk, climb to the ridge of a vast golden sand dune to see the landscape lit up in different shades of pink, crimson and mandarin cast by the setting sun.



📍 DAY 4

Explore the Atacama desert.

Explore the region's other-worldly landscape on a full day excursion to the Atacama salt flats and surrounding lakes. Across the dazzling, pitted surface of the salar, you'll see pink-tinged flamingos feeding, reflected in the glimmering pools. A dusty drive takes you through some tiny hamlets where Atacameños eke out a living in these harsh conditions, before continuing to Lakes Miscanti and Miñiques. Here you're left literally breathless – at over 4,000m the air is thin and cold. Take a walk around the lakeshore and picnic with a view of the volcanic cones perfectly reflected in the turquoise waters.



📍 DAY 5

Optional excursions around San Pedro.

Should you choose to take the morning optional excursion to El Tatio Geysers, be prepared for a very early start. But it's well worth it. You arrive on the pitted, craggy geyser field just before dawn, and as the sun rises and warms the earth, hot steam projects dramatically out of the crater into the freezing morning air, creating a wall of mist through which you can make out dark silhouettes against the penetrating sunlight.

Alternatively you may want to walk to Pukará de Quitor (3 km). This old Inca fortress has superb views of the mountains and volcanoes bordering Bolivia and Argentina.



📍 DAY 6

Fly via Santiago to the lake district and waterside Puerto Varas.

Fly south via Santiago to Puerto Montt, and continue by road to Puerto Varas, situated on the shores of Lake Llanquihue (one of the largest natural lakes in South America), in the heart of the lake district. Towering snow-capped volcanoes punctuate a patchwork landscape of cultivated hills and pastures. The town sits in the shadows of the perfect conical peak of the Osorno and Calbuco volcanoes. Originally colonised by German immigrants, it has a distinctive, Bavarian feel. There are some excellent seafood restaurants and cafés serving creamy küchen to while away your free time.



📍 DAY 7

Excursion to Petrohué Falls; boat trip on Lake Todos Los Santos.

Today you will visit the Petrohué Falls where you stand on wooden walkways and gaze down in to the glacial turquoise waters. Follow the trails through the forest and along the shores of Lake Todos los Santos, where you will take a boat trip on the gem-clear, emerald green waters. On a clear day, this is some of the most exquisite scenery on the continent.



📍 DAY 8

Optional full-day visit to Chiloé Island.

We strongly recommend a full-day excursion to Chiloé. This extraordinary island developed largely independently from the mainland and has a distinct history, architecture and mythology. Alighting on its shores is like stepping back into a time of mists and legends. Half the population works in agriculture, the techniques of which have remained unchanged for centuries; distinctive ox-driven carts are to be seen trundling down the island's unpaved roads past unique wood-shingled churches and there are several folksy fishing ports where you can savour fresh oysters.

November-March you can take a boat trip to spot Magellanic and Humboldt penguins. The excursion ends with a visit to a chilote family, where the traditional curanto is prepared for you; it's a hearty dish of seafood, meat, potatoes and vegetables are piled high in a hole in the ground, buried and cooked among glowing embers.

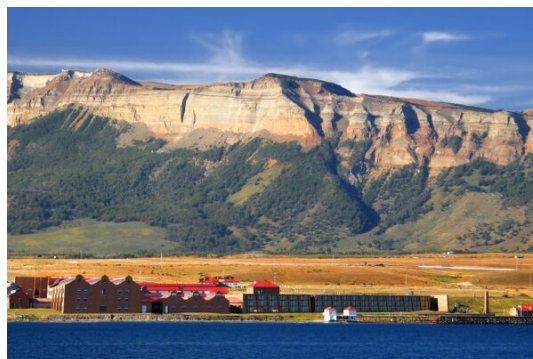


📍 DAY 9

Fly south to Puerto Natales in Patagonia.

After a short drive to Puerto Montt, a 2 hour flight takes you south to Puerto Natales (Punta Arenas Airport is used if flight schedules are not available). On a clear day you have views of the southern icecap, its fjords, volcanoes and glaciers.

Your luxury hotel is just outside Puerto Natales on the shores of Last Hope Sound, a short drive from Torres del Paine National Park. It gets its inspiration from (and retains parts of) the original abandoned structure of an early 20th century refrigeration plant, built in what is now called Post-Victorian Industrial style.



📍 DAYS 10 - 11

Explore the national park on some of the included excursions.

For 2 full days the group will explore the Torres del Paine National Park by private vehicle and on foot, leaving in the morning and returning to the comfort of Puerto Natales by evening.

We include the famous boat trip that navigates towards the wall of giant Glacier Grey. The boat will set a course through the vivid blue icebergs that crowd Lago Grey before taking you right up to the face of the enormous glacier. This is a monumental ice field extending almost as far as the eye can see and fronted by a cracking, calving wall of azure pinnacles.

Whilst exploring the park they'll be stops to visit some of the best viewpoints such as Lago Nordenskjold and Salto Grande. The scenery is overwhelming; the granite massif of the Cuernos, milky lakes dotted with icebergs and, soaring above, condors riding against perpetual fierce winds. Spend the rest of your days exploring the national park on foot. Follow a number of different walking trails winding alongside the glacial lakes and rivers with close-up views of tortured rock towers and needles rising 3,000m into a tempestuous sky. The difficulty and length of the available walks in the park vary hugely, and some may not be suitable for all passengers.



📍 DAY 12

By road to Punta Arenas

Journey back south to Punta Arenas, once an important, British-influenced trading centre before the opening of the Panama Canal turned it into a backwater; the region's fortunes were only briefly revived during a short-lived gold rush. To add to its woes, the sheep-rearing business has never recovered from the catastrophic collapse of the price of meat and wool. It's now a gateway to Chilean Patagonia and the nearby National parks.



📍 DAY 13

Continue to Punta Arenas and fly back to Santiago.

Catch a flight back to Santiago (4 hours) which normally includes a stop in Puerto Montt where those wishing to continue with the lake crossing to Argentina will leave the group. Overnight in the capital.



📍 DAY 14

Depart for international flight or extension.



UK clients arrive home the following day.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Services of our team of experts in our London office
- Services of Journey Latin America local representatives and guides
- All land and air transport within Latin America
- Accommodation as specified
- Meals as specified
- Excursions as specified, including entrance fees

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

- Santiago: walking tour
- San Pedro de Atacama: Moon Valley and Atacama salt flats
- Lake district: Petrohue Falls and boat trip on Lago Todos Los Santos
- Torres del Paine: Full program of excursions to choose from

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Tips and gratuities
 - Meals other than specified
 - International flights to Latin America
 - Airport taxes, when not included in the ticket
 - Optional excursions
-

ESSENTIALS

ABOUT OUR GROUP TOURS

To find out more about how our group tours including group sizes, solo travellers and why to choose us. Please click [here](#).

TOUR LEADER

On this tour, you'll be accompanied from start to finish by one of our exceptional Journey Latin America tour leaders. From the moment you land in Latin America until the day the tour ends they will deal with all the practicalities, expertly adapting to the circumstances and individual needs of the group. Rather than different guides in different cities, your leader will get to know the group and keep you informed and entertained as you go.

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

14 days, 13 nights: Santiago 2; San Pedro 3; Puerto Varas 3; Puerto Natales 3; Punta Arenas 1; Santiago 1.

ACCOMMODATION

On this tour we offer upper mid-range and first class hotels.

Examples of hotels include:

- Santiago: Cumbres Lastarria
- San Pedro de Atacama: Cumbres San Pedro
- Puerto Varas: Petra Puerto Varas by Wyndham
- Puerto Natales: Hotel Singular
- Punta Arenas: Cabo de Hornos or Yegua Loca

On very rare occasions these hotels can change, however please speak to one of our consultants who can provide full details for each departure if you have any doubts. Address and contact details will be sent out with your final documents.

TRANSPORT

4 flights (longest 4 hours). All land transport is operated privately for the group.

MEALS

Breakfast daily, lunch day 4.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

On this tour the price includes excursions in all the places you visit as per the itinerary. There will however likely be some free time when you may choose to take part in an optional excursion. These are booked locally through your tour leader once you are in Latin America, however we are more than happy to advise you of what is on offer in advance of your holiday so you can best plan the excursions that suit you.

TRAVELLING ALONE

There is no extra cost for single travellers who are willing to share a room. You will be accommodated with another same-sex member of the group who is also travelling solo. For single travellers who wish to have their own room there are a limited number of single rooms available, which carry a surcharge.

TRIP SUITABILITY

In the Torres del Paine optional hikes vary in length (4-10 hrs) and difficulty (some are easy and flat, others steeper and more challenging). All walks are linear and along good paths, so you can follow them as far as you feel comfortable. Your tour leader can advise about which of the trails would be most suited to you. Throughout the Journey, there is time to relax and explore on your own if you wish.

You'll need to be prepared for some very early mornings and dramatic changes in temperature and high altitude is also a factor when in the Atacama desert. Please see section on altitude for further details below.

ALTITUDE

Some of the excursions in the Atacama Desert are at high altitude, although you spend the night in San Pedro de Atacama which is at a comfortable 2,440m. Symptoms of altitude sickness vary; most common are mild headaches, slight nausea and breathlessness. Most people are unaffected and if you drink plenty of water and allow your body to acclimatise (don't exert yourself or drink alcohol) in the first couple of days after arrival, you will minimise your chances of suffering any symptoms. Please refer to our Briefing Dossier for further information.

CLIMATE

This holiday only operates from October through to March. As a broad overview Chile has the opposite seasons to the UK, meaning November to February tend to be the warmest summer months. The further south you travel in the country the cooler it gets, although this varies with altitude. A comprehensive overview of the weather in all the regions you are visiting can be found in our Destination pages. Our Travel Experts can answer your questions on climate and further details will be sent with your confirmation documents.

CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT AND LUGGAGE

A daypack is essential for carrying rainwear, snacks, books/tablet and a water bottle. To ensure your comfort while walking in Patagonia, you should bring good waterproof walking boots/shoes (tried and tested so you don't get blisters) as well as a good water/windproof (not just shower-proof) jacket and trousers, a warm hat and a scarf. Some walkers find hiking poles helpful, and binoculars are useful for bird and wildlife spotting. Bring a hat with a visor, sunglasses and sun block. Because the weather can be changeable, we recommend wearing layered clothing for excursions.

Be prepared for the cold during nights in Atacama (particularly if you choose to take the excursion to El Tatio Geysers, where temperatures are below freezing).

MONEY

Please see the Country Info tab on this holiday for our latest currency information and advice about how to take your spending money. Tipping in Latin America is almost always done using cash. It is customary to tip tour leaders, local guides, drivers, boat crews and other service providers such as restaurant staff and porters. Full tipping guidelines are sent with your confirmation documents as is advice on local costs.

HEALTH, ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND INSURANCE

For health information on travelling to Chile including recommended vaccinations, please see <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/>

All Latin American countries have specific entry regulations related to Covid 19. Please also check our Travel Hub for further information.

Holders of a full British passport do not require a visa, although passports should be valid for at least 6 months after the trip begins. Other nationalities should enquire with us or check with the consulates.

Travel insurance is essential. Details of our recommended policy can be found on the Travel insurance website.

Our full briefing dossier contains more information on vaccinations, visas and insurance and will be provided with your final travel documents or can be requested from your travel consultant at any time.

CLASSIC GROUP TOURS

PENGUIN: EXTREMES OF CHILE

14 days from **£5,022pp**

CHILE / SANTIAGO AND THE VINEYARDS / ATACAMA DESERT / CHILEAN LAKE DISTRICT (SOUTH) / PATAGONIA / TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

GIVE US A CALL

We'd love to chat

0208 747 8315

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

SEND US AN EMAIL

tours@journeylatinamerica.com