

EXPLORE!

Tour Notes



Comfort Itinerary Version (TMCH3)



TOUR DURATION
15
DAYS



Tour Type: Tailormade

tour Code: TMCH3

Tour Essentials

Accommodation: 3 nights Standard Hotel

Included Meals: 12 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners

Transport:

Countries: Chile

Tailormade Chile's Highlights

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced tour leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

DAY **1** Depart the UK



 **Included Meals:** None

DAY 2 Arrive in Santiago de Chile

Arrive in Santiago de Chile and have an afternoon free to start to explore or relax. The city is a was founded in 1541 and today is a cosmopolitan mix of high-rise buildings, bars, restaurants, museums, galleries and theatres.

 **Included Meals:** None

DAY 3 City tour

After breakfast, you will enjoy a half day city tour. Santiago enjoys a beautiful setting on a wide plain with the snow-capped Andes providing a dramatic backdrop. Fine buildings, statues and gardens pay testament to its colonial past and there are many interesting museums. On your tour, you'll see the Presidential Palace of La Moneda and the Metropolitan Cathedral. The main street, Alameda Bernardo O'Higgins, leads to the main square, full of historic buildings. End with a climb to the summit of Cerro San Cristobal. This afternoon is free for you to explore at your leisure.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 4 Santiago

Spend the day at leisure.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 5 San Pedro de Atacama

Fly to San Pedro de Atacama. Set high amongst the spectacular volcanoes of the Chilean Andes, San Pedro is a small oasis that was once the centre of the Atacama indigenous culture. Its dusty streets and majestic setting still exude a flavour of a distant past, while the area also provides a gateway to the dramatic landscapes of the Atacama Desert.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 6 Moon Valley Tour

Take a half-day Moon Valley Tour, with guided walks through the colourful geology of the Cordillera de la Sal, composed of eroding salts and minerals. The area has steep canyon walls, sand dunes and soaring Andes peaks in the background at all times. There are great photo opportunities as the colours change, especially at sunset.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 7 El Tatio Geysers

Today is a very early start to reach the El Tatio Geysers at an altitude of 4,300m before sunrise. It is the highest geothermal field in the world. At dawn, powerful spurts of steam shoot up from various blowholes. You will have enough time to enjoy this beautiful natural wonder before returning to San Pedro de Atacama for an afternoon at leisure.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 8 Puerto Varas

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Puerto Montt and transfer to Puerto Varas. Puerto Varas is a charming city on the shores of Lake Llanquihue. There are spectacular views across the lake of majestic snow-capped volcanoes surrounded in native forest.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 9 Osorno volcano and Vicente Perez Rosales

A full day exploring the scenic beauty of the region. Leave your hotel and journey around Lake Llanquihue, from here zig-zag uphill to one of the craters where you can look into it. Continue climbing and you'll be rewarded with stunning views of Lake Llanquihue and the ocean beyond. You'll also visit National Park Vicente Perez Rosales, to see the Rio Petrohué falls and beautiful Todos Los Santos Lake.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 10 Punta Arenas

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Punta Arenas. Upon arrival you will be welcomed and transferred to your hotel. Founded in 1848, Punta Arenas is one of the most southerly cities in the world. The settlement began life as a military fort to reinforce the Chilean claim to sovereignty over the Magellan Strait, on which it sits. In its early years the 'undesirables' of Chile were sent to its penal colony. This is a place of history, nature and a stepping stone to Torres del Paine.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 11 Torres del Paine National Park

Transfer to Torres del Paine National Park. Torres del Paine has one of the most famous and beautiful landscapes in the whole of Patagonia. The park's name comes from the Native American word 'payne' meaning pale blue: acknowledgment of the striking turquoise lakes that adorn this astonishing environment. Today is free for you to arrange excursions locally, sail around the chain of icebergs to the glacier on Lake Grey or walk beneath the towering granite peaks of the immense Paine Massif.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 12 Torres del Paine National Park

Today is free - you may want to trek the Las Torres Ascencio trail. You will walk through beautiful lenga forests and get up-close to the astounding Towers of Paine. Throughout the excursion you will walk through bushes, streams and moraines. Then you will continue by foot up towards the base of the towers. Or take a walk to Mirador Cuernos viewpoint and walk along Lago Grey beach and view icebergs calved from a huge glacier floating down towards the beach. Later this afternoon it is possible to book an optional boat trip along the Serrano River up towards the glacier.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 13 Santiago de Chile

Today you will be transferred back to the airport for your flight to Santiago.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 14 Depart Chile

Depart Santiago on your overnight flight to the UK.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 15 Arrive in the UK

 **Included Meals:** None

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 12 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Chile

Lunch £: 13.00

Dinner £: 20.00

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Chile

Bottle of Beer £: 1.75

Water £: 1.30

Foreign Exchange

Chile

ATM Availability: Available in Major towns. Always have some cash as back-up as they are not always reliable

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are useful and can be used in many places, but may be subject to a service charge.

Travellers Cheques: Travellers' Cheques can be awkward or expensive to change

Local Currency: Peso.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Carry all your funds in US cash NOT Sterling or Travellers Cheques which are more difficult to exchange. We recommend to take a minimum of US\$400-\$500 of your total spending money in cash for your tour, in mixed denominations. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange.

Where to Exchange: Tour Leader will advise on arrival

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at www.explore.co.uk, in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining any of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour.

We are delighted to include FREE travel insurance **for all qualifying customers** who book an Explore trip from 01 January 2015.

For more information about Travel insurance and to check whether you are eligible to receive free cover, please visit www.explore.co.uk/insurance. Explore Worldwide Ltd are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The registration number can be checked by visiting the the FCA's website www.fca.gov.uk or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

Vaccinations & Protection

Chile

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Chile

The best time to visit is spring (Sept-Nov) and autumn (March- April). Between June and September the heat in the northern part of the country is less intense. Remember rain can fall at any time of the year and the weather is changeable in the mountains. Easter Island has a tropical climate so is likely to be quite hot and humid. It can also rain there in the evenings and become chilly.

Luggage allowance on tour:

Unfortunately it does occasionally happen that luggage does not always reach its destination on the same flight as its owner, or possibly it may be damaged in transit. If you are unlucky enough for this to occur, it is important that you file a PIR (Property Irregularity Report) with the airline before leaving the airport. This is essential when you come to make a claim either against the airline or from your travel insurance company

General Information

Country details

Chile

Population: 15,500,000

Size of Country: 748,800 sq km

Major Language: Spanish, Aymara, Rapanui.

Religion: Predominantly Roman Catholic.

Time Difference to GMT: -4

Electric Supply & Plugs

Chile

2 Pin Round

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailor-made holidays.
- Award-winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one of the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport. Often you will stay in family-run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditions, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

Earth Matters

- [The Travel Foundation](#)
Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk
- [Tourism Concern](#)
Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- For further information on responsible travel go to <http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/>

Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/travel-safety>

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel,

Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2015.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 3 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 3. 4/ itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 4.

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