

Sustainability Programs

DIVE INTO A WORLD OF UNFORGETTABLE, ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCES
CONSERVATION THROUGH TOURISM, TRAVEL, DISCOVER & PROTECT.

We privilege small hotels with high standards of quality as we support local business and communities. According to the Undersecretary of Tourism, 78% of international tourists who visit Chile are largely attracted by the country's natural beauty. We want to continue strengthening the image of Chile as a top global nature destination and a leader in protecting valuable natural heritage, with a visionary commitment to conservation and building planetary resilience in the face of today's climate crisis, loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems.

Nowadays, consumers become more concerned about the environment and the impact of their travel, Chile is becoming a key player in sustainable tourism. It is a potential win-win: travelers enjoy the culture and respect the environment, and the locals involved earn a living without having to cut down forests, or pollute the air. Here, we take a closer look at this growing market.

Chile offers a whole host of stunning landscapes, and places untouched by mass tourism. It is the perfect destination to become a key player in the sustainable tourism industry. One example is the Torres del Paine trekking tour, which offers a unique insight into the country's natural beauty, and an impressive experience, without over-commercialization, or the need to damage nature.

LOCATION: NORTH OF CHILE AND THE ALTIPLANO.

PINTADOS GEOGLYPHS.

Geoglyphs of Pintados is witness of the largest concentration of Geoglyphs in the world. Over 60,000 square yards of hill slopes are decorated by more than 400 figures depicting humans, animals, birds or abstract shapes, isolated or arranged into thematic groups. The geoglyphs are estimated to date from 1,000 to 1,400 A.D. and are thought to be part of a votive center.

BIRD WATCHING NORTH OF CHILE AND THE ALTIPLANO.

This unique program explores the driest region on Earth. A very diverse array of birds inhabit the Pacific Coast and high plateau of the Andean range. This is home to special birds such as the Giant Coot, Puna, James and Chilean Flamingo, Oasis Hummingbird and the threatened and tame Chilean Woodstar among others. Our journey will take us from the coast to over 3.500 mts / 11.500 ft a.s.l. and

will give us the chance to add a great list of birds not found in other regions of Chile. Guide: Bilingual Naturalist guide expert in birdlife with International Wilderness First Responder Certification.

HUASCO SALT FLAT PARK & ANCESTRAL GEOGLYPHS.

Huasco Salt Flat and Ancestral Geoglyphs is a true Photographic Safari, of diverse altiplanic fauna and landscapes of Nature with Volcanoes and mountains, lagoons and salt flats, bofedales and rivers, Geysers and thermal baths, as well as contact with the Aymara Culture regarding its typical food and share at the time of lunch, dinner and lodging of tourists in the different Lodge and Andean lodgings.

ANCIENT CARAVANS WITH LLAMAS IN SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA.

We will leave San Pedro de Atacama to go to the surroundings. We will reach a point from where the walk begins, this way we will restore the old circuits that the communities used to go as a caravan through the Atacama Desert. While we walk, the guide will tell us about the behaviour of the ancestors, and how the man tamed the camelids, which will join us during the journey. The tour is a great way to learn more about the traditional cultures of the desert and connect with local people.

CULINARY AND CULTURAL WALKING TOUR THROUGH SAN PEDRO.

“A bite of Atacama” invites us to discover the best local cuisine and culinary gems of San Pedro de Atacama on a 4 hour walking tour – a great way to spend a delicious and entertaining morning, getting to know local food, discovering new flavours and learning about food heritage as well as culture and history of the Andean region.

ANDEAN COSMOVISION IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DRIEST DESERT OF THE WORLD.

The night in the Atacama Desert, its infinite sky, the fire and the stories gives life to a unique and unrepeatable sensory experience with a balanced level of knowledge of the Andean cosmovision of the sky and the scientific and formal language of the stars.

Prepared local guides will help us combine the traditional scientific astronomy with the ancient Andean vision that had the first astronomers in this place, long before the first telescope was used. We observe the beauty and solemnity of celestial bodies in a unique environment: in the middle of the driest desert of the world. The Atacama desert has one of the most star-spangled skies in the world which can be observed thanks to the extraordinary diaphanousness of the desert air. In the Andean culture, astronomy is essential in the daily life of their agropastoral societies, and it integrates and influences their architecture, art, music and dances. To get even closer to the ancient experience, we will sit around the fire to share the stories, myths and legends related to heaven, in the way that grandparents did.

This activity offers gazing the night sky with the naked eye, recognizing constellations or admiring the moon to interpret and share modern and ancient knowledge. As a complement, we will also have the possibility of observing the stars and the moon through the modern telescope.

LOCATION: CENTRAL CHILE

VISIT SANTIAGO WITH A LOCAL

Discover Chile's capital through the eyes of a local on this custom-made excursion. Skip the typical guided tour and instead connect with a Santiago local who will show you around like a friend, and introduce you to the neighborhoods that they know and love. Along the way, gain an insight into Chilean culture, cuisine, and everyday life; find out how to get around in the city; and receive recommendations on where to eat, drink, and shop. Connect with a Santiago local who will show you around the city.

WINE AND BIRDS NEAR SANTIAGO

The marshes and wetlands near the city of Santiago are among the best places for a birding experience. This recently declared natural sanctuary is at the edge of an industrial area. Despite its location, it is home of great diversity of waterfowl and passerines associated to these habitats. In our first day, we will be looking for the parasitic Black-headed Duck, Rosy-billed Pochard, Yellow-billed Pintail, Coscoroba and Black-necked swans among other great aquatic species. The vegetation around is home to the Correndera pipit, Long-tailed meadowlark, Rufous-collared Sparrow, and, with a little luck, we may spot in the reed the Wren-like Rushbird and the Many-coloured Rush-tyrant among others. After birding, we will move towards our first wine experience at the Flaherty winery to have lunch and taste the wines. This vineyard belongs to two Californians that arrived to Chile in 1993 and started to produce excellent blends of Carmenera, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon.

SANTIAGO MARKETS BIKE WITH A LOCAL

Get a taste of local life in the capital and learn more about Chile's gastronomic heritage on this 3-hour bike tour of Santiago. Follow your guide on a 4-mile (6.5km) route, stopping to browse the stalls, or sample local delicacies (own expense) at famous markets like the Central Seafood market, La Vega Central or Tirso de Molina Market. Cycle the city streets to absorb the local atmosphere.

WALKING VALPARAISO WORLD HERITAGE

Valparaiso, famous for its port, colorful architecture, and amazing street art, visible from the city's hills. Once you are there, you will explore the World Heritage Site on foot, visiting the port, the Plaza

Sotomayor y Aníbal Pinto, and the hills of Alegre and Concepción. You will also experience local public transport such as the trolebús and elevators; both national monuments. After visiting various streets, viewpoints and churches, guided by a local porteño.

LOCATION: LAKES & VOLCANOES.

INTERCULTURAL “GUERRA DE ARAUCO”.

We will start our expedition in search for the intercultural melting pot in the area of Cañete. We will visit the interactive Mapuche Museum of the zone and here, they will tell us about the exorbitant and courageous Mapuche culture. We will get prepared for our next stop, and we will head towards the Ruka Mapuche Lelbun, close to Lake Lanalhue. A “lamnien” (Mapudungun = brother) will tell us about his life and worldview of his Mapuche town. We will stop to eat and enjoy an abundant, delicious lunch where we will taste the authentic characteristic food of this original town. Afterwards, we will move towards Purén, where we will visit some interesting places that speak for themselves, and we will soak up the exciting history before finishing our visit by going to some important historical landmarks. (At night we will eat a dinner that fuses a mix of Italian-Chilean-Mapuche flavors and aromas in Restaurant del L’Emiliano.) With our Tour Mapuche, we help constructing markets with identity and collaborate with the development of the economies of the indigenous towns within the Araucanía Region.

PEWENCHES AND COMMUNITIES.

Our ethnic experience brings us to the home of the Mapuche culture Pewenche (“people of the ancient tree, Araucaria or Pewen” in Mapudungun, the language of the Mapuche), to the Andean Lagoons, and to an ancient Araucaria forest. An hour and a half from Pucón, we will arrive to the Puesto sector of Villarrica National Park, located at the base of Volcano Lanín that is shared with the bordering country, Argentina. During a mild walk that takes between 2 and 3 hours, we can enjoy the view of this massive volcano, and feel like the Mapuche, walking through the forests in search for their main food source, the ngülliw (pine seed). We will go through natural environments with great scenic beauty, eventually arriving to Huinfiuca Lagoon, and returning to Quillehue Lagoon, afterwards heading west for 20 minutes in the car until we get to the intercultural Mapuche village Curarrehue. In lof (“clan of families that share the same territory” in Mapudungun) “Trankürra”, we will find a community tourism project, where we can meet a “longko” (chief of the community) and his family in a “ruka pewenche de wampo” (typical Andean Mapuche style house made of wood) and a bee farm. Enjoying the history and the delightful Pewenche gastronomy, later we learn about “lawenes” (local herbal medicine) and about the honey they use to make natural cosmetics. On the way back to Pucón, we will go by the cultural center Trawupeyüm (“where we meet”), where a local guide tells us their own story

in context to the cultural artifacts on display and the legends that are also written on the information panels. With our CulTour Mapuche, we help constructing markets with identity, and collaborate with the development of the economies of the indigenous towns within the Araucanía Region.

BIRDING AT QUENUIR WETLANDS AND MAULLIN RIVER.

One of the best birding spots in Chile. The mouth of the Maullín river is one of the best spots for birding in Chile. This is where more than 50% of migratory birds that visit Chile choose as residence for the southern spring-summer time.

Our departure will be early in the morning in order to reach the birding area at the best time to spot birds. Then we'll hop on a boat or a ferry, which is going to be the best way to start the birding. We'll be looking out for different species of cormorants, sandpipers, shearwaters, terns and petrels during the 30/40 minute navigation. Then, once we get to the coast of Quenuir, we'll start walking to reach two different lagoons where we could be spotting more than 40 species of birds: pintails, ducks, grebes, whimbrels, the Hudsonian Godwit, flamingos (only during fall-winter), kingfishers, skimmers, cinclodes, ibises, lapwings and many more.

AN IMMERSION IN THE LOCAL CULTURE.

You will have the opportunity to meet Chile's largest indigenous group, the Mapuche (in the native Mapuche language, Mapudungun "people of the earth"). Three hours of exuberant culture are awaiting you, meeting the original people who still preserve their ancestors' cultural heritage. Always respecting their traditions and our "ñuke mapu" (Mapudungun "Mother Earth"/ Nature), we will head towards the indigenous reserve Quelhue (Mapudungun "swampy area"). On the way, we will cross the Trancura river over a bridge, where we can observe the three strato volcanoes of Villarrica National Park: Lanín, Quetrupillan, and Villarrica. We will then visit the land of a local Mapuche family, who proudly share their culture and demonstrate their traditions in their "ruka" (Mapudungun "house"), made of wood and straw. We will get to know typical artifacts of daily use, musical instruments, try on their traditional clothing and learn about their belief system. Whether you want to help toast grain over the fire, learn how to play the Mapuche hockey game 'Palín' or learn to dance respectfully around the "rewe" (Mapudungun "totem"), you will get a flavor of what life for these nature loving people has been and is like today. While enjoying a typical contemporary Mapuche dinner, you will have the opportunity to hear more tales from your hosts, sitting next to the open fire. A typical Mapuche asado includes vegetables from their own gardens and meat from their farms, but there is also a vegetarian option. A shared "mate" (traditional tea) at the cooking fire will be the close to this excursion into a different and almost unknown world. With our CulTour Mapuche, we help constructing markets with

identity and collaborate with the development of the economies of the indigenous towns within the Araucanía Region.

A DAY IN HUILICHE TERRITORY.

This unique adventure will take you to one of the most unknown corners of the Lake District. Here, you will have the opportunity to learn about the local Huilliche culture and the wild and windy coasts of the south Pacific Ocean. The Huilliche are one of several groups for whom this region is an ancestral home. These groups still exist and practice their unique cultures. This is a perfect combination of a morning of hiking while enjoying sea landscapes, followed by an afternoon of sharing: with a Huilliche community. You will learn about their history, music, medicine, and cuisine.

HIKE ALERCE ANDINO.

Alerce Andino National Park is located between mountains, volcanoes and the Pacific Ocean. This full-day excursion will take us along the coast through the beginning of the Carretera Austral. Here, we will hike for approximately 5 hours inside the park, surrounded by the exuberant temperate rainforest, including the old Alerce trees (*Fitzroya Cupressoides*). You'll see the transformation of these mountains throughout the millions of years, and the resulting landscape of rivers, waterfalls and lagoons. During the drive to the park we will make stops at local villages along the road and to admire the ocean view of the first fjord of Patagonia.

Culture: The Huilliche people, or "people of the south," navigated the waters of Lake Chapo and the Reloncaví Estuary in dalcas, boats made from wooden planks and bark. They hunted and collected seeds, fruits, and mushrooms in the forest.

BIRDS OF THE TEMPERATE RAINFOREST.

A full day excursion in search for birds of the temperate rainforest, from the elusive Tapaculos (Chucao Tapaculo, Black-throated Huet Huet, Ochre-flanked Tapaculo) to some specialties as the Des Mur's Witherell, the White-Throated Tree-Runner and the Patagonian Sierra-Finch, among others. The National Park Alerce Andino is hanging between mountains, volcanoes and the Pacific Ocean. To arrive there we will drive along the coast through the beginning of the Carretera Austral, with great opportunities to spot migrant shore birds.

We'll explore the park along paths surrounded by the evergreen temperate rainforest, with the opportunity to see the Alerce (*Fitzroya Cupressoides*), one of the most longevous trees in the world. The transformation during millions of years of these mountains created a landscape full of rivers, waterfalls and lagoons.

CHILOÉ ON DARWIN'S STEPS.

Join us in this unique and comprehensive journey to the island of Chiloé, discovering trails off the beaten path to get a real local, and naturalist experience. The island is the land of myths, local communities, fishermen villages, and ancient traditions. Through this 4-day experience we will deeply explore the culture, and the nature of the island sharing time with locals, hiking through wild paths, navigating the Pacific Ocean and learning about the culture of a remote land in a remote country.

LOCATION: PATAGONIA, CARRETERAL AUSTRAL AND MAGALLANES.

TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK.

Declared the Eighth Wonder of the World and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the Paine Massif is known as one of the most beautiful mountains on the planet. Formed around 12 million years ago, this geologic work of art is a magnet for trekking and climbing aficionados, making it the third most-visited park in Chile. The trekking circuits—known as the O and the W—are on the short list of must-visit treks from around the world. These hikes offer visitors turquoise lakes, pristine glaciers, gorgeous forests, and striking pampas, and are home to species including the Puma, Huemul (South Andean Deer), Ñandú, and Guanaco.

Culture: The Aonikenks, or Tehuelche people, were nomads who traveled the Patagonia by foot. They were expert hunters and used spears and bow and arrow to hunt Guanacos and Ostriches. With the introduction of horses to the region during the 18th century, these peoples extended their routes through the southern steppe and made new hunting tools, such as boleadoras, a throwing weapon made of weights attached to cords. They were among the first peoples to have contact with Europeans traveling to the region, and their history has since been steeped in legend. In 1520, Hernando de Magallanes arrived at San Julián Bay, and Antonio Pigafetta, the expedition's chronicler, started the myth about the giants who inhabited the edge of the world. The name «Patagón» was etched in the mind of navigators for centuries, and though the legends stretched the truth, the Patagones—today known by their original names of Aonikenks or Tehuelches—were indeed tall and strong men, with their average height reaching six feet.

ROUTE OF THE PARKS OF PATAGONIA & CARRETERA AUSTRAL.

There is a land in the southernmost region of South America where remoteness and wilderness preserve one of the world hotspots of biodiversity and natural landscapes. Patagonia is still today a synonymous of adventure in one of the most spectacular regions on earth. This comprehensive journey

through glaciers, fjords, active volcanoes and exuberant forests is the best multisport combination to experience an impressive array of terrains and get the most of this spectacular región.

PUMALIN PARK AND CARRETERA AUSTRAL.

Enjoy the experience of exploring one of the hidden gems of the South of Chile. The Park Pumalin is the kingdom of the temperate rainforest with breathtaking trails ready to be discovered lead by our expert naturalist guides. The park is located at the entrance of the Patagonian fjords region, surrounded by glacier valleys, active volcanoes and probably the best-preserved forests of Chile with a unique biodiversity. The conservation project of these lands is an important part of its history and the park itself is now one of the destinations included in the new Route of Patagonian Chilean Parks.

TORTEL.

Caleta Tortel might be one of the most picturesque towns in Chile. It features 5 miles of boardwalks made from Ciprés de las Guaitecas (Pilgerodendron) winding through the fjords at the mouth of the Baker River, all nestled between the Northern and Southern Ice Fields.

The town has been declared a heritage site, with architecture that tells the story of the first settlers to arrive to the area. The settlers came from Chiloé and were known for their woodworking skills, especially with axes. In 1904, the «Baker Exploitation Society» (Sociedad Explotadora del Baker) began logging in the area, bringing along workers who settled in the basins of the Baker, Bravo, and Pascua rivers. Today, the houses' facades, the beautiful shingles, and the smell of cypress make this town an unforgettable place for visitors.

LAGUNA SAN RAFAEL NATIONAL PARK.

San Rafael's magnificent landscapes are a mosaic of fjords, channels, islands, inlets, and ice. Declared a Biosphere Reserve, the park is the main port of entry to Chile's Northern Icefields. The San Rafael Glacier attracts visitors from all over the world, who set out from Puerto Chacabuco or Puerto Tranquilo to admire its vast, untouched horizons and its biodiversity. Charles Darwin, Fitz Roy, and Alberto de Agostini are just a few of the historical figures who have helped spread the word about this wonderful hidden corner of Aysén.

Culture: The parklands are ancestral territory of the Chono people, a nomadic people who navigated the islands and channels in their canoes, moving between the south of Chiloé and the Taitao Peninsula. They hunted Sea Lions, fished, and gathered shellfish and seaweed along the coast.

KAWÉSQAR NATIONAL PARK.

Kawésqar National Park is one of the largest parks in the world and the second-largest in Chile. It includes large swaths of the archipelagos in the provinces of Magallanes and Última Esperanza, as well as half of Isla Riesco. Its landscapes are a mosaic of cordilleras, forests, glaciers, fjords, lakes, wetlands, and valleys—virgin ecosystems of unmatched beauty—and are home to a wide variety of plant and animal species. The Montañas Fjord and the Sarmiento Range are just a few of the natural wonders in this park that draw visitors from around the world.

Culture: Seven thousand years ago, the Kawésqar people sailed between the south of the Gulf of Penas and the Strait of Magellan in boats known as the «queens of American canoes» because of their perfect construction. Made from Coigüe bark and covered with plant fibers, the canoes were a central feature of the Kawésqar peoples' lives. The men spent much of their time rowing in them, hunting and exploring the labyrinthine fjords, while the women were expert divers. The Kawésqar people stood an average of 5 feet, 5 inches tall, and their name means «people rational in skin and bones.» It's estimated their population reached over 3,000. In 2006, cave paintings were found on Madre de Dios Island, south of Puerto Edén, suggesting that the Kawésqar developed some type of writing or symbology.

FUTALEFÚ.

Futaleufú means “Large River” in Mapundungún, and the Futaleufú River has indeed earned its name: it's considered one of the top three rivers in the world for rafting and an ideal river for kayak aficionados. It flows into Lake Yelcho and is known far and wide as a paradise for fly fishing as well. Futaleufú lies in the ancestral territory of the Tehuelche people. The first settlers arrived from Argentina around 1912 and made their home in the mountainous countryside. The city was officially founded in 1929. Known for horseback riding, yerba mate, and “gauchos,” or Chilean cowboys—a rich local culture that can also be explored in nearby rural communities, including Espolón and El Azul, among others—this area has developed a strong tradition of rural tourism, with excellent options for visitors looking to trek or go horseback riding.