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CHILE & EASTER ISLAND
A Fully Escorted Tour 10 – 25 Feb 2012

OPTIONAL PRE- TOUR ADD-ON TO ATACAMA DESERT

Atacama Desert is one of the most spectacular and unique areas on the planet. Despite no annual rainfall, the landscape features crystal clear blue lagoons, hot springs and rivers, bizarre moonscapes and spectacular geysers. Covering an area of 105,000 sq km (40,600 sq miles) in the north of Chile, the remarkable landscape with its unique features attracts visitors from around the world. Unlike most other deserts, the climate in the Atacama Desert is quite cool with an average temperature between 0°C (32° F) and 25°C (77° F). During February day time temperatures can rise to 30°C (86° F), but night time temperatures routinely drop below zero.

The hub of the desert is San Pedro de Atacama, a town that grew, over centuries, around an oasis on a high arid plateau. Its first inhabitants were the Atacameños, who developed basketware and ceramic pottery, which can still be bought in local souvenir shops. The town is today one of the most popular tourist attractions in Chile. It is also the stepping off point for exploring Atacama.

Please note that San Pedro de Atacama is located at an altitude of 2,400 Metres (7,900 feet) above sea level. 20 – 30% of visitors experience mild altitude sickness, such as dizziness, lethargy and headaches. This usually passes in a day or two with acclimatization. Some of the excursions can take you to heights of over 4,000 Metres (13,100 feet). Excursions are available at differing levels of altitude and difficulty and your lodge guides will plan your programme in the best order to avoid the risk of altitude sickness. For those who plan to climb the volcanoes, we recommend a stay of 4 nights in order to acclimatise adequately.

Please consult your doctor about visiting this area if you are a smoker, or have a history of asthma, anemia, diabetes or high blood pressure.

3 OR 4 NIGHT EXCURSION

On arrival at Calama Airport, you will be met by your lodge guide and transferred to the town of San Pedro de Atacama and your lodge for the start of your desert adventure. Transfer time approximately 1 hour.
There are two options for this package, the KUNZA HOTEL & SPA and AWASI.

At the end of the 3 or 4 night excursion, you will be transferred to Calama Airport for your departure flight to Santiago, to start your escorted tour of Chile.

This is a proposal only and bookings will be subject to availability, as no accommodation has been reserved.
Please note that availability at all properties in the Atacama desert are in high demand and are quickly booked out during this high season period (the best time to visit).

KUNZA HOTEL & SPA

Situated in San Pedro de Atacama, this lovely hotel blends into the environment like another element of the desert. This oasis is the culmination of an ambitious project and architect Cristian Boza has perfectly combined rusticity with luxury, in harmony with the geography of the area. The all-inclusive service offers guests the opportunity of enjoying the many attractions of the desert from the comfort of the hotel with its spa and outdoor pool. All meals, open bar, spa access (dry and steam sauna), jacuzzi usage, daily excursions and transfers from/to the airport are included.

Kunza has created a programme of 30 different excursions enabling guests to discover and experience the desert, its oasis, the altiplano andits culture. Every night guests meet with their guide to discuss the following day's excursions, which are classified according to duration and difficulty. Excursions are aimed at the sustainability of local communites, with their co-operation.

The 60 suites of 52 sq mt each have independent air conditioning and heating with a private terrace, small bar, flat TV screen, internet connection and digital safe. http://www.hotelkunza.cl/

AWASI

Situated in the riverside town of San Pedro de Atacama and comprising just eight adobe cottages furnished with custom-built pieces, this luxury lodge is owned by an architect and decorator. Guests have individual cottages with private open-air courtyard, decadent modern bathrooms, indoor and outdoor showers, bathroom amenities from natural desert oils of the Atacama,with a menu of aromatherapy oils for relaxing baths, internet. Massage therapist and personal butler service available.

With such luxury, it would be tempting to just stay in, but the central appeal of Awasi is its natural setting. The all-inclusive rate covers not just all meals and transfers, but excursions as well. A small fleet of jeeps and drivers are on hand to lead an ever-changing array of tours and day trips, from hikes and nature walks to culture and archaeology tours, sporting adventures, even astronomer-led nighttime stargazing outings. Explorations show the different facets of this incredible desert, its geography, history and traditional culture. http://www.awasi.cl/

PRICE IN US DOLLARS

KUNZA HOTEL & SPA

3 NIGHTS **$1,380** per person in twin/double room **$552** Single Supplement
4 NIGHTS **$1,840** per person in twin/double room **$736** Single Supplement

AWASI

3 NIGHTS **$1,887 to $2,350** per person in twin/double **$566 to $705** Single Supplement
4 NIGHTS **$2,510 to $3,020** per person in twin/double **$753 to $906** Single Supplement
Price difference depending on choice of 4 different room types

Included in Price
Transfers, accommodation, all meals, drinks (alcoholic & non alcoholic) and excursions

Not Included
Flights
Tips & Gratuities
Insurance
All items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, laundry

Cost of domestic flights
Santiago / Calama /Santiago USD 475.00 per person
There are several flights daily
Cost of flights subject to change without notice

Cost of additional nights in Santiago at Rugendas Hotel on bed & breakfast basis (if required)
USD 156.00 per room per night double/twin or single

THE ATACAMA – A PHOTOGRAPHER'S PARADISE