

Walk Beach Chile Brazil Atacama, Patagonia & Brazil beach



Torres del Paine National Park - Atacama Desert – beautiful Rio – stylish Buzios - hike in breathtaking scenery - soak in hot springs – stand on top of the Andes - walk on a glacier – see Sugar Loaf mountain – relaxed beach ending - small group – exclusive itinerary

Combine walking and relaxation on this three week holiday to some of South America's most beautiful places.

Enjoy the surprising and beautiful diversity of the Atacama desert.

Relax in the beautiful surroundings of the Chilean Lake District.

Walk beneath the mountains of Patagonia's Torres del Paine.

See the highlights of Rio de Janeiro.

Relax on the beautiful sands of stylish Buzios, north of Rio de Janeiro.

A Pura *handmade* holiday with activity level *medium* and a comfort rating *first*.



Christ the Redeemer on top of Corcovado mountain



"Great variety in two very contrasting environments, both stunning in their own right. The right balance of challenge and comfort. A truly memorable holiday with some great people." Andy B.

Holiday Itinerary

Day 01 | flight | fly to Chile

Fly overnight to Chile. *Please note: international flights are quoted separately for this holiday.*

Day 02 | Santiago | arrive in Chile

Land in the Chilean capital, Santiago, this morning.

You are collected for the transfer to your comfortable hotel to relax and freshen up.

This afternoon you take a fairly short city tour to help you get your bearings.



Stay in comfortable and characterful hotels.

Day 03 | San Pedro | explore Santiago

Transfer back to the airport for your early morning flight north to the Atacama Desert.

Meet your Pura guide who will be with you throughout your time here in the north.

Drive an hour across the desert to the small, characterful oasis town of San Pedro de Atacama.

Relax in your boutique hotel on the edge of town.

San Pedro is a single storey adobe town with dirt roads with a range of surprisingly nice places to eat. Some of the restaurants are set around a central courtyard with an open fire.

The town is on a plateau at just over 2,400m. A few kilometers outside the town, the Andes rise steeply to peaks of up to 6,000m. This beautiful curtain of peaks forms a backdrop to your time here in the Atacama.

Over the course of your days here we gradually go higher in order to get you acclimatised to the altitude though San Pedro itself is at a very manageable level for most people.

Lunch and early afternoon is yours to settle in and explore on foot.

Questions? Ready to book? Call us on **01273 676 712**

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What makes our Atacama different?

At Pura Aventura we try to do things a bit differently. The Atacama is a popular destination with a well-worn checklist of excursions. Whilst these are beautiful, we prefer to stay off the beaten track. We think that it's better to be outside in the fresh air with a few people than travelling in a crowd.

Sunset in the desert

The usual way is to drive out of town to the rim of the Valley of the Moon, then walk just to the edge from where you watch the sun setting over the desert. On a busy day there can be over a hundred people sitting in a long line.

Our way is to drive out of town to the rim of a valley; walk down across a sand dune; over a short stretch of salt flat and into a narrow gorge in the salt mountains. As you follow the gorge, the air cools and the rocks crackle, with bats and owls flying overhead. Emerge into a natural amphitheatre hidden away in the middle of the hills, from where you watch the sunset.

The salt flats and lagoons

The usual way is to drive a dirt road to the large lagoons in the heart of the salt flats; have time to wander, take in the scenery and watch the large colony of flamingoes before returning by vehicle.

Our way is to ride bikes straight from your hotel to a series of small lagoons towards the northern edge of the salt flats, close to San Pedro where you have time to wander, swim and watch a smaller colony of flamingoes.

Special places

We also take you to places with nothing comparable on the usual tours. Walk down through the mountains from high oases to low villages following ancient Inca pathways. Most spectacular of all is the walk up to the heady heights of Toco volcano.

Tatio geysers

The one 'checklist' place we do take you to are the Tatio geysers. Whilst spectacular, you can see from the photo below the sort of visitor numbers you can expect. This photo was taken in November which is not the busiest time of year.



Floating in the lagoon at the end of a bike ride across the salt flats.

We really think that our exploration of the Atacama desert is different and better than that offered by anyone else.

"The Atacama surpassed all our expectations, summiting Toco in glorious sunshine with snow on the ground was brilliant."

In the late afternoon

you drive up to a sandy ridge at the edge of the town. Walk (7km, 2hrs, ∇ 100m) down a huge sand dune, across a small salt flat and through a narrow gorge in the salt mountains. As the sun sets and the temperature drops, the rocks begin to contract and settle for the night – crackling as they do so.

Return to San Pedro by vehicle for an evening at leisure. Whilst in San Pedro groups tend to get together to choose a place to eat out but this evening is at leisure so you choose what suits you. (b)

Day 04 | San Pedro | **geysers and lagoons**

It's an early start today as you visit the world's highest geothermal field – the Tatio geysers.

A very early start is necessary to arrive in time to watch the sunrise.

At first light the geysers come to life in a spectacular display of steam.

Breakfast is served up at the geysers, sometimes we even manage to cook eggs in the steaming waters.

Please do bear in mind that the geysers are a natural phenomenon which on rare occasions fail to perform.

Stop at the lovely Puritama hot springs for a soak on the way back to San Pedro.

This afternoon set off directly from the hotel on a gently paced bike ride across the compacted surface of the salt flats to a series of lagoons, home to a family of flamingos.

Once you get there you enjoy a cool drink and perhaps a swim in the buoyant waters of the lagoon.

There is an interesting inversion effect on this lake whereby the top 20cm of water is cold but the layer underneath is as warm as a bath.

Ride up to 20km, 3hrs, virtually flat.

Return to town by vehicle. (b)

Day 05 | San Pedro | **walk on Inca paths**

Start today's walk in small village 4,000m above sea level. You are likely to feel the effects of the altitude here but you almost immediately start to walk downhill.

The first stretch of the walk is along a wide green Andean valley rich in bird life and llamas.

As you come out of the Andes and into the pre-Andes mountains you descend more quickly.

The landscape becomes much more arid: dominated by giant cactus plants. At this point you are walking on old Inca roads passing distinctive terraces in the hillsides.

Towards the end of the walk you cross through the salt mountains to reach a low desert oasis. Walk 18km, 5hrs, ∇ 1,000m

You are collected at the end of the walk and driven back to San Pedro where you can enjoy a dip in the pool or just read a book on your terrace. (b,l)

Day 06 | San Pedro | **walk to a high summit**

After several days of being active at altitude, today's walk takes you as high as many of us will ever stand.

The road east out of San Pedro steadily climbs towards the Andes. Over the course of the hour-long drive you rise nearly three vertical kilometres to the trailhead at an old sulfur mine.

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Walking to the Cari gorge in the afternoon.



Looking out over Volcan Osorno in the Chilean Lakes.



Traditional fishermen's stilt houses on Chiloe



Standing on top of Toco volcano.

As well as the Atacama spread out beneath your feet, you can also see into Bolivia and Argentina. Walk 6km, 3hrs, \uparrow 420m, \downarrow 420m.

Having woken up in a comfortable bed this morning and then walked to the summit of a high Andean volcano, you should be back in San Pedro in time for a late lunch. This is the very definition of an active holiday in comfort!

Please note that alternative activities are available for this day if you prefer.

Take this afternoon to relax. (b)

Day 07 | Puerto Varas | **to the Lakes**

Set off early to fly south to the Chilean Lake District via Santiago.

Stay in the town of Puerto Varas which lies on the edge of Llanquihue Lake in full view of the lovely Osorno Volcano.

The town is a charming small place, easy to explore on foot with lots of good restaurants and cafés.

Please note: whilst here your time is unstructured but there are many options for day trips into the surrounding National Parks.

We provide you with local information to help you make the most of your time. (b)

Day 08 | Puerto Varas | **volcanoes & lakes**

Today is yours to relax and explore at your own pace. If you wish, you might like to join our optional tour.

Please note that we offer one optional tour today and another tomorrow but many others are available to book locally when you arrive should you prefer.

Optional: Visit the Petrohue Falls for a short walk to see the various different falls and pretty viewpoints.

Continue to the shores of Lago Todos los Santos.

Certainly on a sunny day it's hard to image a more beautiful sight than the steep, densely forested slopes dropping into the turquoise waters. (b)

Day 09 | Puerto Varas | **Chiloé Island**

Today is yours to relax and explore at your own pace. If you wish, you might like to join our optional tour.

Optional: Spend today on the island of Chiloé.

The short ferry ride across to the island can be wonderful with glorious views of snow capped volcanoes and pods of dolphins swimming alongside.

Chiloé has a unique and fascinating history and culture, including the UNESCO world heritage wooden churches, fishing houses on stilts and its own delicious cuisine.

Today is an opportunity to learn about life on this special island. (b)

Day 10 | Puerto Natales | **to Patagonia**

This is a long though beautiful travel day.

Fly south along the spectacular spine of the Andes, over the massive Patagonian ice fields.

When you arrive meet your guide who stays with you throughout your time in Patagonia.

The three-hour drive across the open plains of Patagonia takes you to the seafont town of Puerto Natales and your first class hotel overlooking the Last Hope Sound.

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Torres del Paine: the 'W' walk

Pura Aventura was founded because of a chance meeting in Torres del Paine so it holds a special place in our hearts.

Torres del Paine is unique because within a relatively small area, you find every aspect of Patagonian scenery: mountains, lakes, glaciers, forests and grasslands. There is really no other place you can see such variety in such a compact area.

Our way

Our way is to follow the famous 'W' route which cuts across the park from glacier to grassland.

In order to get close to the spectacular mountains and glaciers you have to leave behind the hotels and lodges which are in the south of the park. You have to sacrifice some creature comforts, but the guides, porters and *refugios* make it comfortable and civilised.

Walks are generally between four and five hours and are quite accessible for anyone who enjoys hill walking in the UK.

You stay in refuges or mountain huts during the walk. They are not luxurious but they do allow you to



shower each day and to enjoy a hot meal and glass of wine at night.

You have a team of porters carrying your overnight things from refuge to refuge so that you can walk with just a daypack.

Your guides are experts in this area, and the Park in particular.

They therefore

know how to pace the walk, when to sit tight and wait for weather to clear and when to head out.

Rather than crossing over high passes, you are walking between the mountains and the lakes so the path is basically undulating without hard ascents and descents.

Most of Torres del Paine is just above sea level. The park is at roughly the same relative latitude as Manchester. Summer daytime temperatures are usually comfortably in the mid-teens celsius. There's an average of 16 hours daylight in the summer months so the pace can be relaxed.

"I think the walks were correctly graded as moderate. It certainly helps their enjoyment not having to carry a full pack and I appreciated the opportunity to stop for photographs, look at the wildlife and so on."

Dine out in town and then back to the hotel to pack for tomorrow's journey into Torres del Paine.

For your time in the park you will need relatively few things so you will leave most of your luggage in Puerto Natales to be picked up on your way out of the park. While walking your overnight things are carried for you by porters, leaving you to walk with just a daypack. (b)

Day 11 | Torres del Paine | into the park

Set off into the beautiful Torres del Paine National Park.

This afternoon you enjoy a boat ride along the full length of Lago Grey as far as the glacier.

This is the end point of the southern Patagonian icefield so you have 1,000km of ice ahead of you as you travel towards the 40 metre high face of the glacier.

Land to drop your things at the mountain refuge (*refugio*) where you will spend tonight.

Sleep within earshot of the creaking glacier.

For the next four nights you sleep in *refugios*.

These are basically mountain huts. The ground floor is taken up by the dining area, small shop for snacks & drinks and the bathrooms/showers.

Upstairs are the dorm rooms. Rooms sleep between four and eight people in bunk beds. Rooms are mixed.

Each of these refuges is different so some are more modern, some more basic. In all of them there is little in the way of light or sound insulation but you are indoors and relatively comfortable. Hot meals are prepared for you in the evenings and the atmosphere tends to be lively and sociable. The 'tuck shop' sells snacks as well as wine and beer. (b,l,d)

Day 12 | Torres del Paine | walk with lake views

Set off on the four-day 'W' hike across the park from the glacial west to the dry grasslands of the east.

Whilst walking you only have to carry a daypack with items such as lunch, waterproofs and cameras.

One lovely feature of hiking in the park is that streams are so pure that you drink the most delicious water straight from them.

Porters carry your main bags ahead to the next refugio so you do not tend to see them during the day.

Today's walk is relatively short (11km, 4hrs, Δ 400m ∇ 400m) and therefore relaxed.

Over the course of the route you pass the viewpoint of Glacier Grey which is a great spot for photos.

During the summer you can expect upwards of 14 hours of daylight so you have plenty of time to explore and enjoy your surroundings with your guide. (b,l,d)

Day 13 | Torres del Paine | walk past mountains

Today the scenery is some of the best of the holiday as you walk in the shadow of huge peaks alongside turquoise lakes.

Walk under the mountain of Paine Grande then a steady uphill and a steep downhill towards the shores of Lake Nordenskjold.

You might also be lucky enough to enjoy a side hike up into Valle Frances for fantastic views out across the glacial lakes to the south of the park. Walk 9km, 4hrs, Δ 200m, ∇ 200m

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Your boat gives scale to Glacier Grey.



Visit the Torres del Paine massif



Tonight you sleep in the most isolated of the refugios in probably the most striking setting. (b,l,d)

Day 14 | Torres del Paine | **walk past lakes**

Continue your walk along a good path in the shadow of the mountains throughout today. You should see lots of condors as you pass beneath the high peaks.

Stop for lunch alongside a small lake populated with fantastic bird life.

The path is intersected by streams at certain points – crossing these can involve stepping stones or the occasional rope bridge.

Towards the end of the day you reach the base of Valle Ascencio. Walk 13km, 5hrs, ▲600m, ▼300m.

Sleep in what many consider to be the prettiest of the refugios in the park. (b,l,d)

Day 15 | Torres del Paine | **walk to the 'Torres'**

Early start to hike up to the distinctive mile-high granite towers.

The day starts off on an undulating path leading through a pretty beech forest.

Once you emerge from the forest you find yourself at the foot of the glacial moraine beneath the towers.

It is a steep walk to get through this maze of huge boulders but you emerge on the edge of a small lake at the base of the towers.

Head back downhill to the refugio for lunch before undertaking the final stretch of your walk back down to the bottom of the valley. Walk 16km, 7hrs, ▲650m, ▼900m.

Continue out of the park and back to your very comfortable hotel in Puerto Natales.

Celebrate your completion of the famous 'W' route across Torres del Paine with a glass or two of wine over a delicious meal. (b,l,d)

Day 16 | Santiago | **travel north**

Fly to Santiago for your last night in Chile.

Today is a long travel day although the views are always a treat. Dress comfortably, relax and enjoy.

Drive to Punta Arenas to fly north to Santiago where your guide collects you to take you to your first class hotel for your last night in the city.

You should try and get out to enjoy one of the city's great restaurants. (b)

Day 17 | Rio | **travel to Brazil**

Check out of your hotel for your shuttle transfer back to the airport from where you catch a flight over to Rio.

Your guide will be waiting for you at the airport to take you to your hotel near Ipanema beach.

You will have left the group behind now to enjoy tailor made services for your time in Brazil. (b)

Day 18 | Rio | **explore Rio with a guide**

Take time to wake up slowly today before your guide comes to introduce you to the marvelous city of Rio.

Really what makes Rio special is the setting – it is a city spread across bays and valleys wedged between forested hills and sandy beaches.

Today's half day tour to Corcovado will be almost entirely outside.

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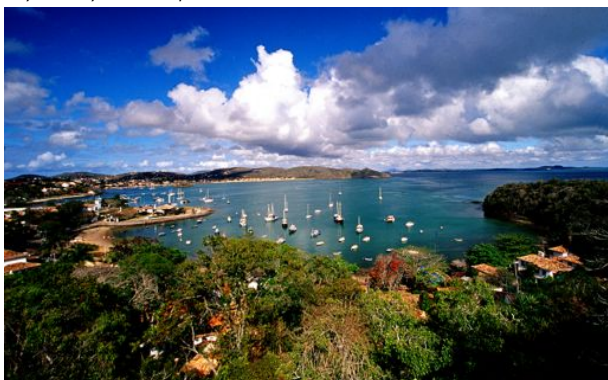
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Late afternoon light on Sugarloaf Mountain



Stay in a stylish boutique hotel.



The town of Buzios.

Start high above the city centre as you pass through the Tijuca forest, on the slopes beneath the statue of Christ which sits on top of Corcovado mountain.

Tijuca is actually the world's largest urban reserve and it is quite impossible to imagine that you are near such a major city while you are in there.

Carry on to the top of the hill and Christ the Redeemer, so emblematic of both Rio and Brazil as a whole.

Despite being such a commonly seen image, the statue is one of those places which can still have a profound impact.

This is partly due to the sheer scale of the sculpture and partly due to its beautiful setting with the whole of Rio spread out beneath your feet.

This afternoon you might like to stroll through the charming old cobbled streets of the Santa Teresa neighbourhood, complete with its rickety tram network. Alternatively, you could head to the beach.

Ipanema really is the nicest area of the city for shopping and restaurants. Each day there is an art and handicraft market in the central square.

You will probably also want to stroll along the beach to watch the world. Ipanema beach is divided into informal sections numbered according to their lifeguard station or *posto*.

Posto nine is where the beautiful people gather.

Buy a fresh coconut to drink from, settle down in a chair and tire yourself out watching a game of *futvolei*, a hybrid of football and volleyball.

Later this afternoon you could head to Sugar Loaf Mountain. Take the cable car up to the top of the hill to watch as the sun sets over the city's bays. (b)

Day 19 | Buzios | explore and travel

You are picked up for the three-hour drive to Buzios.

Once the preserve of pirates and slave traders, since Bardot came here in the 1960s this pretty fishing village has been popular with a more elite set, particularly of Cariocas (natives of Rio).

Buzios nowadays has a relaxed but quietly sophisticated air about it.

Relax after your travels in your lovely pousada overlooking the bay. (b)

Day 20 | Buzios | relax and explore

Daytimes are generally spent on one of the 20 or more beaches, evenings are spent eating well or enjoying a little of that legendary Brazilian nightlife.

Many clients rent bikes for their stay in order to have the freedom to explore at their own pace.

Each of the beaches or bays has a different feel.

The west coast beaches offer calm, clear waters while the east coast ones, facing the open sea, are a little wilder and draw surfers and water sports enthusiasts.

Olho de Boi beach is surrounded by absolutely untouched Atlantic Forest vegetation.

For beautiful views at sunset, take a ride to Brava, Forno or Tartaruga beach. Azeda beach is probably the most beautiful.

If you want to cross from Ossos to Azeda beach you can hike or take a water taxi around the headland.

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Looking down onto one of our pousadas.



Relaxing in the pool at Buzios.

Joao Fernandinho Beach has several bars and restaurants known for great seafood.

Ferradura and Geriba are most popular for surfing.

The lovely Rua das Pedras winds through the town centre for shopping, restaurants, bars and nightlife. For nightlife, arrive at around 11pm for several bars with live music. (b)

Day 21 | Buzios | **relax and explore**

More time around Buzios to enjoy the beaches, scenery, activities and nightlife. (b)

Day 22 | Buzios | **relax and explore**

More time around Buzios to enjoy the beaches, scenery, activities and nightlife. (b)

Day 23 | Buzios | **relax and explore**

More time around Buzios to enjoy the beaches, scenery, activities and nightlife. (b)

Day 24 | travel | **fly home**

Enjoy more time around Buzios this morning before your afternoon transfer back to the airport and your overnight flight home.

Please note: transatlantic flights are quoted separately for this holiday. (b)

Day 25 | home | **arrive back**

Space for your questions to us

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Holiday Information

Pura Handmade

This holiday is unique to us.

We have designed and deliver this holiday using our own people and carefully selected local suppliers to create a *Pura Handmade* holiday.

You are looked after by a Pura team on the ground in Santiago, the Atacama and Patagonia.

We ensure that you see places from off the beaten path in the Atacama Desert.

In Patagonia we take you on a route through beautiful scenery without your having to completely sacrifice your creature comforts.

The hotels and lodges we have chosen very carefully to best reflect the places you are visiting.

In Brazil you are much more independent but we provide you with all the information you might need to make the most of your time in this pretty town.

How active?

Some high altitude walking in the Atacama but these are 'return to base' so you can choose not to walk on these days.

Reasonably strenuous walks over five consecutive days in Patagonia but your bags are portaged, you are at sea level and distances are not great.

In Buzios there are over 20 bays surrounding the town, each with its own atmosphere and activity so you can swim, snorkel, dive, windsurf, sail, kayak, lie on the beach, etc, depending on where you go each day.

Hire bikes to get around the headland.

How comfortable?

First class small hotels with twin/double en suite rooms throughout except four nights in Patagonia's mixed, communal refuges.

Your luggage is portaged in Torres del Paine making the pace of this walk very relaxed and comfortable.

In Rio stay in a good four star hotel near the beach in Ipanema or a boutique hotel in the Santa Teresa area.

In Buzios stay in what equates to a good four-star boutique hotel near the water.

How independent?

This holiday is made up of two parts: fully guided small group in Chile and tailor made services in Brazil.

In Chile you will be part of a small guided group, 12 maximum although we also offer private and tailor made departures.

In Brazil, you have a guide meet you on arrival and showing you around Rio but from then on you are then free to enjoy yourselves but can relax knowing that support and help is a phone call away.

When to go?

This holiday is best from October to April when the weather in Patagonia is at its best.

In Brazil expect hot, somewhat humid conditions.

In the Atacama rains come in January - March but they do not tend to have a serious impact.

Not based in the UK?

We are very happy to discuss your requirements if you are not travelling to and from the UK.

Please call us on **+44 1273 676712** between 9am and 6:30pm weekdays.

Not quite right?

If this holiday's not quite right for you, call us to discuss your ideas or consider:

Walk Chile & Peru: Hike Atacama, Patagonia and the Inca Trail Combine the Atacama Desert, Torres del Paine and the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

Walk Chile: Atacama & Patagonia Focus on the Chilean part of this holiday.

Walk & Beach: Peru and Brazil Hike the Inca Trail before flying to a beautiful Brazilian beach to relax.

How do I book?

If you would like to book onto this holiday, please call us on **01273 676 712** with the following information:

- Full names, address, contact telephone numbers & email, deposit of 15%

Deposits can be paid by card, cheque or bank transfer, whichever suits you best. The balance of your holiday is payable 60 days prior to travel.

Note that this small group holiday is subject to a minimum number of four.

Prices & departures

2012/13	09 Nov 29 Jan £4,950
Please note	This price assumes arrival in South America on a One World partner airline such as BA, Lan, Iberia or American. Prices for regional & domestic flights South America can be considerably higher for those arriving on a non-One World airline such as Air France or KLM. <i>We reserve the right to pass on these additional costs.</i>
Flights	International flights are quoted separately for this holiday (<i>guide price £750 - £950 depending on season</i>). You can book these directly or we can book them on your behalf.
Prices include	All flights within South America; First class hotels (twin share) throughout except four nights refugios; Pura Aventura guides in Chile; Luggage porters in Torres del Paine; Services in Brazil as described; Private transport; all activities mentioned; and meals (b,l,d) as per itinerary.
Not included	Transatlantic flights; personal expenses; tips.

Prices are per person based on two sharing. Prices may be subject to change: please confirm at booking.

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