



Norte Grande

Includes ➔

San Pedro de Atacama	146
Reserva Nacional Los Flamencos	155
El Tatio Geysers	162
Chuquicamata	164
Antofagasta	165
Iquique	168
Pisagua	179
Arica	179
Chile 11 Highway	188
Putre	189
Parque Nacional Lauca	192

Why Go?

Devil dusters zoom wantonly through sun-scorched Norte Grande with its undulating curves of rock and stone, Andean lagoons, snow-capped volcanoes, salt flats and sensuously perforated coastline. Famous as much for its hilltop observatories as its massive copper mines, those vast, uninhabited spaces touch the soul and the imagination. Norte Grande's star attraction is the tiny adobe village of San Pedro de Atacama, just a day trip away from the world's highest geyser field and some astounding desert formations.

But there's more to Norte Grande than San Pedro. Go for lung-bursting, jaw-dropping adventure near the mountain village of Putre in the high-altitude reserve of Parque Nacional Lauca or further afield to Salar de Surire. Spend a week perfecting your tan on the beaches outlying Iquique and Arica, or make your own adventure in the lost ghost towns and hard-sprung mining centers that make this region unique.

Best Places to Eat

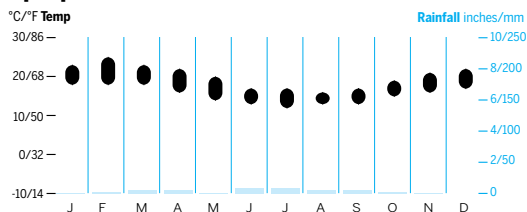
- ➔ El Wagón (p174)
- ➔ La Casona (p153)
- ➔ Los Aleros de 21 (p184)
- ➔ Cafe del Sol (p167)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Hotel Aruma (p184)
- ➔ Terrace Lodge & Cafe (p191)
- ➔ Casa Baquedano (p173)
- ➔ Hostal Quinta Adela (p151)

When to Go

Iquique



Jan–Feb Vacationers hit the coast and some highland spots become impossible to reach.

Sep–Oct The altiplano has solid weather and European summer visitors have gone home.

Jul–Aug Best for highland destinations (though it gets bitterly cold at night) and for hard-core surfing.

Norte

Grande Highlights

- 1 Illuminate the past as you marvel at the world's oldest mummies at the **Museo Arqueológico San Miguel de Azapa** (p187).
- 2 Test your lungs as you visit the Andean villages and high-altitude lakes of **Parque Nacional Lauca** (p192).
- 3 Charge the big breaks by day, sipping pisco sours by night in the charming nitrate-era town of **Iquique** (p168).
- 4 Leave the tourist trail behind, traversing the unexplored frontier north of **Putre** (p189).
- 5 Spot llama and vicuña on the way to the highest geyser field in the world

