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# PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions  
to help you put together your perfect trip

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GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP

Learn about the big picture, so you  
can make sense of what you see

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**Carolyn McCarthy,**  
**Jean-Bernard Carillet, Bridget Gleeson,**  
**Anja Mutić, Kevin Raub**

➤ Every listing is recommended by our authors, and their favourite places are listed first

➤ Look out for these icons:



Our author's top recommendation



A green or sustainable option



No payment required

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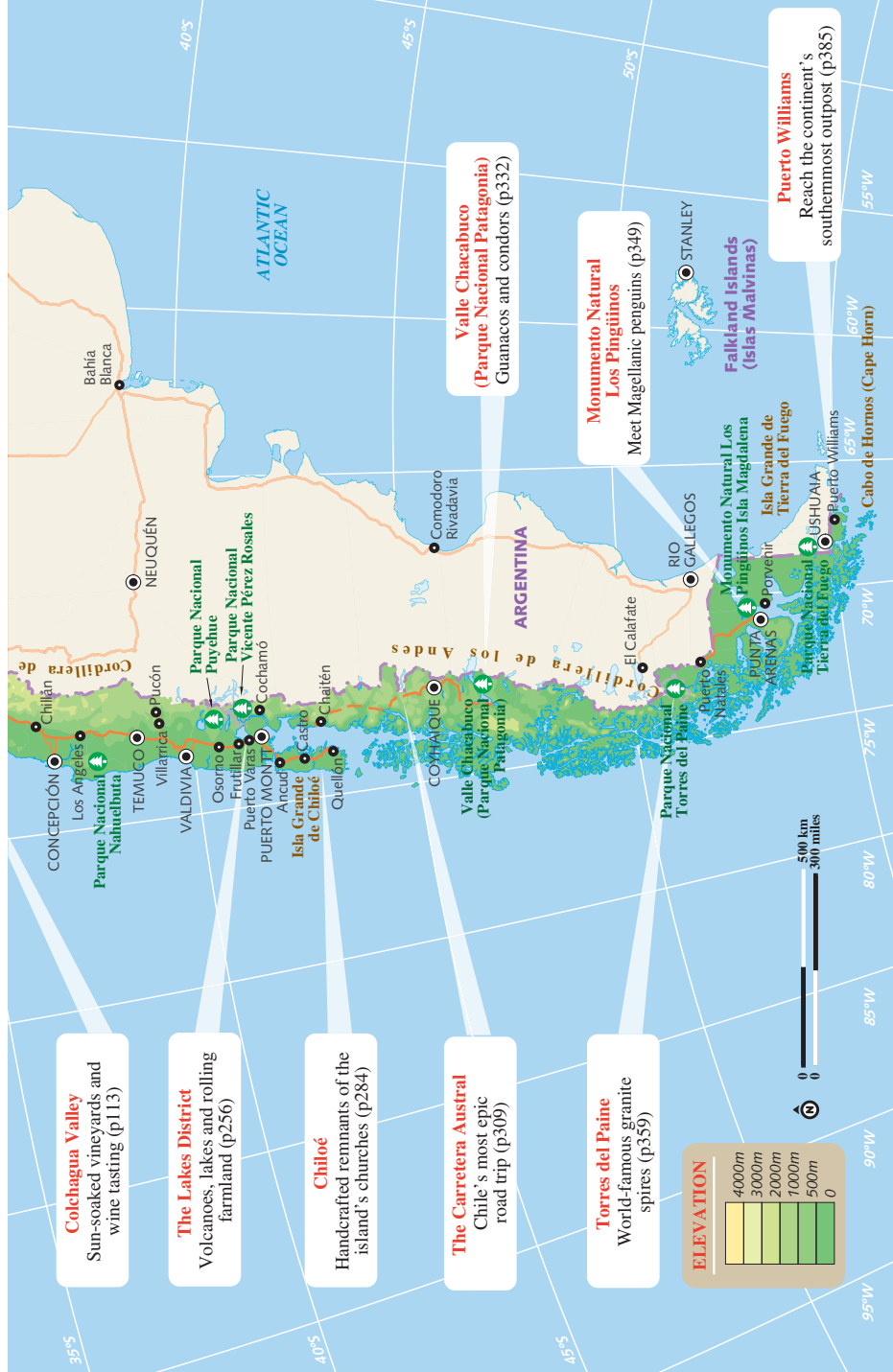
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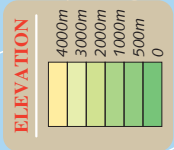
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Sun-soaked vineyards and wine tasting (p113)

**The Lakes District**  
Volcanoes, lakes and rolling farmland (p256)

**Chiloé**  
Handcrafted remnants of the island's churches (p284)

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Chile's most epic road trip (p309)

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World-famous granite spires (p359)



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Guanacos and condors (p332)

**Monumento Natural Los Pingüinos**  
Meet Magellanic penguins (p349)

**Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)**

**Puerto Williams**  
Reach the continent's southernmost outpost (p385)

**Cabo de Hornos (Cape Horn)**



### Kevin Raub

[Sur Chico](#), [Chiloé](#) Kevin Raub grew up in Atlanta and started his career as a music journalist in New York, working for *Men's Journal* and *Rolling Stone* magazines. The rock 'n' roll lifestyle took its toll, so he needed an extended vacation and took up travel writing while ditching the States for Brazil. Despite a dog chewing off a corner of his rental car license plate in Chile, he survived unscathed on this, his second time through Sur Chico and Chiloé. This is Kevin's 19th Lonely Planet

guide. You can find him at [www.kevinraub.net](http://www.kevinraub.net).

Read more about Kevin at:  
[lonelyplanet.com/members/kraub](http://lonelyplanet.com/members/kraub)

### Contributing Author

[Grant Phelps](#) trained in the art of winemaking in his native New Zealand and embarked on a 10-year career as a 'flying winemaker', working harvests in seven different countries before experiencing a wine-fuelled epiphany in Chile. Now resident in Valparaíso, he has been making wine in Chile for 12 years and is currently chief winemaker for Viña Casas del Bosque, in the Casablanca Valley.



## OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

## OUR WRITERS



### Carolyn McCarthy

**Coordinating Author; Northern Patagonia, Southern Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego**

Carolyn has suffered from a severe case of Chilenisis since working as a hiking guide in the Lakes District some years ago. For this trip, she motored the Carretera Austral and hiked in Torres del Paine and Isla Navarino. She has also authored Lonely Planet's *Argentina*, *Panama*, *Yellowstone & Grand Teton National Parks*, *The Travel Book*, *Best in Travel* and *Trekking in the Patagonian Andes*.

Carolyn has contributed to *National Geographic*, *Outside* and *Lonely Planet Magazine*, among other publications. You can follow her Americas blog at [www.carolynswildblueyonder.blogspot.com](http://www.carolynswildblueyonder.blogspot.com).



### Jean-Bernard Carillet

**Easter Island (Rapa Nui)** Journalist and photographer Jean-Bernard is a die-hard

island lover and diving instructor. He's made many trips to the South Pacific, including four to Easter Island. On this gig, he searched for the most enjoyable hikes, the most stupendous vistas, the best-value accommodations and the most potent pisco sour. His favourite experiences included enjoying a picnic at sunrise at Ahu Tongariki and walking along the rugged north coast. Jean-Bernard

has contributed to many Lonely Planet titles and writes for travel and dive magazines.



### Bridget Gleeson

**Santiago, Middle Chile** Based in Buenos Aires, Bridget was just starting out as a travel writer when her sister fell in love with a Chilean. She's been crossing the Andes ever since to visit the Santiago branch of the family, learning how to mix the perfect pisco sour and negotiate the price of fresh *machas* (razor clams) along the way. She writes about Latin American food, wine and travel for Lonely Planet, *Budget Travel*, *Afar*, *Jetsetter* and BBC Travel.

Read more about Bridget at:  
[lonelyplanet.com/members/bridgetgleeson](http://lonelyplanet.com/members/bridgetgleeson)



### Anja Mutić

**Norte Grande, Norte Chico** While growing up in Croatia, New York-based Anja Mutić had a deep fascination with the ancient civilizations of South America.

The appeal grew even more when she first visited the continent in 2001. She has since been returning regularly, for work and for play. On the last two-month jaunt around Chile, she was consistently rained out in the Atacama, said to be the driest desert in the world.

## OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

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# itineraries

*Whether you've got six days or 60, these itineraries provide a starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to [lonelyplanet.com/thorntree](http://lonelyplanet.com/thorntree) to chat with other travelers.*



## Four Weeks Best of Chile

Skate through Chile's amazing diversity in one month. From **Santiago**, feed your creative yen wandering around boho capital **Valparaíso**. If it's winter, explore nearby powder stashes at top Andean resorts like **Portillo**.

Then turn up the dial with desert heat. Fly or bus to the highland village of **San Pedro de Atacama**. Absorb altiplano ambiance visiting the moonlike **Valle de la Luna**, the steaming and strange **El Tatio geysers** and the stark **Reserva Nacional Los Flamencos**. Wind up days of hiking, horseback riding or volcano climbing with mellow evening bonfires and star-stocked skies.

Delve into temperate rainforest in **Pucón**, where rafting, hiking and hot springs fill up your Lakes District dance card. From **Puerto Montt**, detour to folklore capital **Chiloé**; or cruise on a four-day ferry ride through glacier-laced fjords to **Puerto Natales**. By now you are probably in top shape for **Parque Nacional Torres del Paine**. Take up to a week on the trails of this world-famous hiking destination. Then barrel back to Santiago and hop a plane to **Easter Island (Rapa Nui)** to puzzle over its archaeological treasures for five days.



## Two Weeks La Capital and Wine Country

Start your wine-soaked sojourn through Central Chile with a few nights in the happening capital, **Santiago**. Hit the classic sights – stroll around the historic center, stop into the **Catedral Metropolitana**, break for a lively seafood lunch in the clamoring **Mercado Central**, and tour **La Chascona**, Pablo Neruda's Bellavista home. Then check out some of the city's contemporary charms, sipping champagne at a gallery in **Vitacura** or catching an independent film at the brand-new **Centro Gabriela Mistral**.

You don't have to venture too far into the countryside to drink from the flowing casks of central Chile's wineries. Big-bodied reds are crafted in Santiago's outskirts; sample from both a commercial heavy hitter, such as **Viña Concha y Toro** and a boutique winemaker – our fave is **Viña Aquitania**. You can sip Chile's signature whites in the **Casablanca Valley**, where aspiring grape pickers can join **Viña Casas del Bosque's** March harvest tour.

Explore the de facto Chilean wine capital on a **Colchagua Valley** wine tour in **Santa Cruz**. Highlights include a carriage ride through **Viu Manent's** vineyards, the organic, biodynamic wines at **Emiliana** and the haute hand-picked approach of **Casa Lapastolle**. Half the fun is getting there – the Santa Cruz steam engine **Tren del Vino** offers doorstep delivery (with shuttles) as well as on-board wine tasting.

Recover from the overindulgence by heading to the seaside and climbing up one of **Valparaíso's** famously steep hills – but make sure you also catch a ride on one of the city's antique elevators, like **Cerro Concepción**, Valparaíso's oldest – at least once. Wander the charming alleyways, taking in stunning ocean views around nearly every corner; then step into Neruda's **La Sebastiana** getaway before feasting on freshly caught seafood.

Exhausted from the urban hiking? Unwind at the nearby resort city of **Viña del Mar** – Santiaguinos' favorite for a quick beach getaway, with little pressure to sightsee. Simply pull up a chair at **Enjoy del Mar**, strategically located where the sea meets the Río Marga, and toast your travels with yet another pisco sour.

Other acclaimed tours take in **Talca**, where lovers of a fine vintage get a varied experience; at Viña Gillmore you can even get wine therapy at the spa!





- » (above) Parque Nacional Queulat (p320)
- » (left) Wine cellar, Viña Concha y Toro (p82), Pirque



## Four Weeks Pioneer Patagonia

If you wish to travel only back roads, if you desire getting dirty, almost lost and awe-inspired, look no further than this four-week plan. Following the **Carretera Austral**, this route criss-crosses its little-known offshoots and gives you plenty of time on the hoof. Summer, with more-frequent transportation connections and warm weather, is the best time to go.

Leave **Puerto Montt** or Puerto Varas for the **Cochamó** or **Río Puelo** valleys, where you can hike or horseback ride, camping or staying at remote lodgings. From Puerto Montt, ferry to **Parque Pumalín** and camp in an ancient forest with boardwalk trails to booming waterfalls. Ramble the Carretera Austral to **La Junta**, where a farmstay and lazy river run will put you in the Huck Finn mode. Check out the hot-springs options near **Puyuhuapi** or if you're not ready to come clean, camp under the hanging glacier at **Parque Nacional Queulat**.

**Coyhaique** is the next major hub. After making connections to **Chile Chico** on the enormous Lago General Carrera, hop the border to **Los Antiguos** and travel Argentina's classic Ruta 40 to **El Chaltén** for hiking around the gnarled tooth of Cerro Fitz Roy. Take two days to visit **El Calafate**, spending one under the spell of the magnificent glacier **Perito Moreno** in the **Parque Nacional Los Glaciares**. While you're there, feast on giant steaks and bottles of peppery Malbec. From El Calafate it's an easy bus connection to **Parque Nacional Torres del Paine** via **Puerto Natales**. Hike the 'W' route or go for the full week-long circuit. By now you're in prime hiking shape – enjoy passing others on the trail. Return to Natales for post-trek pampering, namely handcrafted beer, hot tubs and thin-crust pizza. If you have time, head back to Puerto Montt via the **Navimag ferry**. Otherwise, fly from Punta Arenas.

An alternative route would be to skip Chile Chico and follow the Carretera Austral to its southern terminus – **Villa O'Higgins**. Relax, go fishing and hike. From here, a rugged boat-hike combination can get you across the border to El Chaltén, where you can rejoin the itinerary a week behind schedule.





## Seven to 10 days Desert Solitaire

How about a few weeks sleeping under star-crazy skies, following condor shadows along desert mountaintops? You'll need a 4WD and plenty of food, water and extra gas. Start with a surfboard in **Iquique** to sample the swells of Playa Cavancha and Playa Huaiquique, and then jump off a cliff on a tandem paragliding jaunt. With the adrenaline rush in place, slow things down with a contemplative wander around nitrate ghost towns **Humberstone** and **Santa Laura**, where you can poke around the creepy abandoned buildings of these once flourishing spots and explore their crumbling grandeur.

Head further north from here, stopping in the isolated coastal town of **Pisagua**, once a bustling nitrate-era port, then a penal colony and today a nearly abandoned and strangely lyrical place where algae gatherers work alongside the ruins of busted mansions; don't miss the windswept old cemetery sloping forlorn on a nearby hill. Cheer up in sunny **Arica**, where plenty of surf awaits below the dramatic headland of El Morro lordling it over the city and remarkably preserved Chinchorro mummies lie in situ at the small museum just below the hill. From the coast, head inland via Hwy 11, passing geoglyphs, colonial chapels and misty mountain hamlets, to the pretty Andean village of **Putre**. Take a day or two here to catch your breath, literally, as Putre sits at a dizzying altitude of 3530m. Once you've adjusted to the height, head to nearby **Parque Nacional Lauca**, where you can take in the perfect cone of Volcán Parinacota, wander through the tiny Aymara village with the same name and walk around the lovely Lago Chungará, all paired with awesome wildlife sightings in this Unesco Biosphere Reserve.

Further south, the remote **Reserva Nacional Las Vicuñas** shelters thousands of these flighty creatures and few interlopers to spook them, so go easy. Heading south on tough terrain through dazzling landscapes, through the isolated salt flat of **Monumento Natural Salar de Surire** with its three flamingo species (best seen between December and April), your reward for an adventurous ride is reaching the ultra-removed **Parque Nacional Volcán Isluga**, before looping back to Iquique.

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